TOKYO RAVENS 9
STORY BY
KOUHEI AZANO
ART BY
ATSUSHI SUZUMI
CHARACTER DESIGN BY
SUMIHEI

CHAPTER 42
NOTICE
C'MON, STUPID-TORA!
I WANT TO TRY THAT ONE!
OOH, THAT ONE NEXT!
MAN ...
C'MON!!
HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG, HARUTORA?
CHAPTER 42
NOTICE
TOKYO RAVENS
STORY: KOUHEI AZANO ART: ATSUSHI SUZUMI CHARACTER DESIGN: SUMIHEI

WHAT'S WRONG, HARUTORA?

CHAPTER 42
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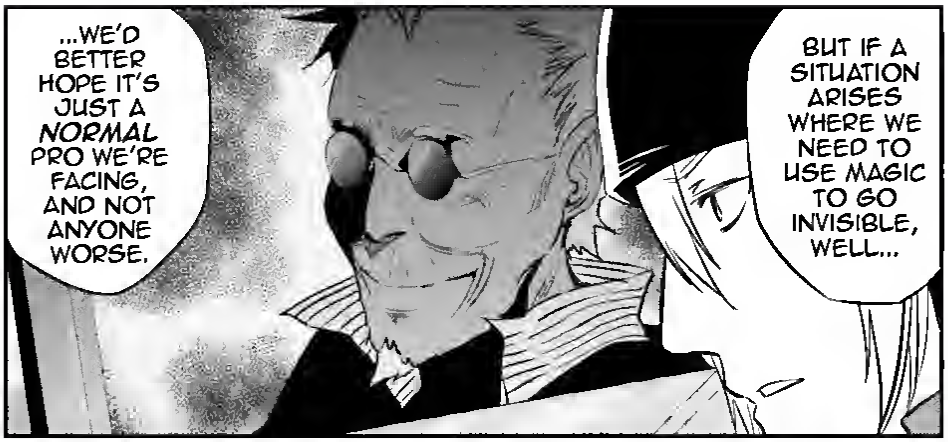
DO-MAN.
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ON THE MOVE.
SSSSSSS...
I HEARD THE NEWS FROM THAT FAMILIAR OF YOURS.
YOU AGAIN, EH?
WHY THE CHANGE OF HEART?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BIDING YOUR TIME.
THAT LOOSE-TONGUED TATTLER.
TSK
SHIF
SHIF

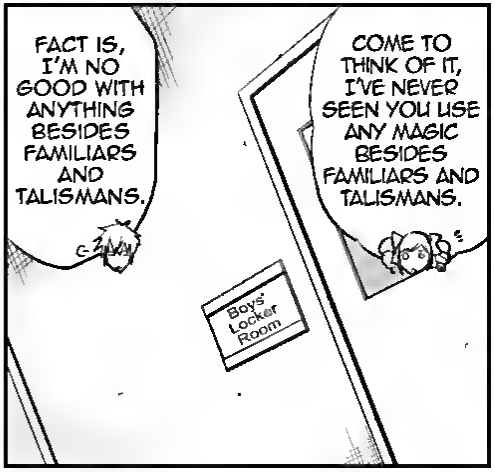
SEEMS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME BE-FORE.
SIGH...
WHAT CAN I SAY? THAT FAMILIAR OF MINE ALSO WAS A BIT HASTY.
YOU KNOW... IF YOU DON'T TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE GONNA BLOW YOUR OWN BIG REVEAL.
AT LEAST PUT A MUZZLE ON YOUR FAMILIAR.
AH, BUT WOULDN'T THAT BE BOR-ING?
I FIND THAT RASCAL'S WHIMSIES RATHER PIQUANT.
I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL IT A THRILL.
A SINGULAR WONDER DRUG FOR MY PERPETUAL ENNUI.
HAH... A THRILL.

SHALL I THRILL YOU A BIT, SINCE YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY TO SEE ME?
"HIGEKIRI" HAS APPEARED.
Hmph.
THAT MEANS LITTLE TO ME...
OH HO?
THEN WHAT DO YOU LIVE FOR?
TO WANDER IN THE DARKNESS UNTIL YOU DESCEND INTO EVIL?
SORRY TO SAY, I DON'T LIVE FOR THRILLS, OR THE ABSENCE THEREOF.
OH? SUCH A COOL REACTION, AS EVER.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU ENJOY IN LIFE?
WHAT DO I LIVE FOR, I WONDER?
I GUESS I LIVE TO FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT VERY QUESTION.

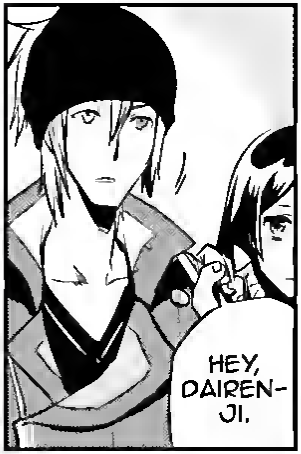
SHEH
SHEH
SSSSSSS..
SHEH...
SHEH...
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
SSSSSSS..

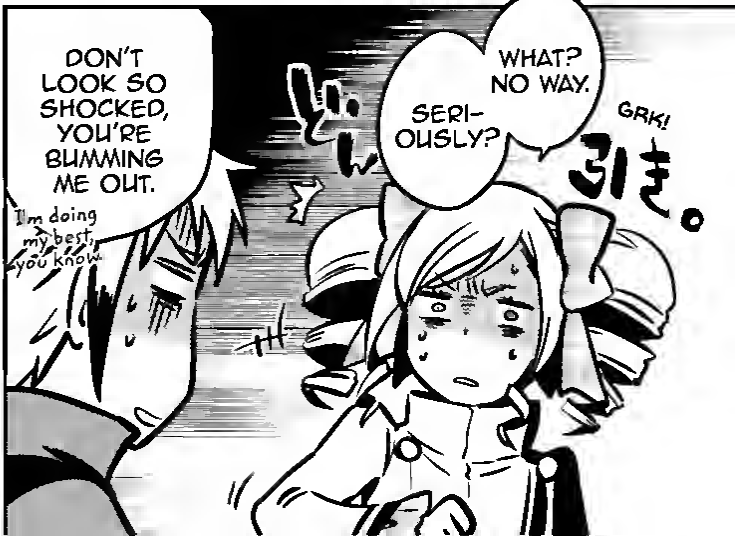
ONMYO PREP - UNDERGROUND MAGIC PRACTICE AREA (IN FRONT OF THE LOCKER ROOMS)
I FOUND YOU, DARLING!
TRAINING ON YOUR OWN, EVEN AFTER SCHOOL? HOW IMPRESSIVE!
SUZUKA?
YOU'RE SO BLATANTLY TERRIBLE AT THIS.
YOU THINK YOU CAN MASTER ONMYO THAT WAY?
YOU LOOK LIKE A PRESCHOOLER OUT THERE.
BUZZ OFF.
TODAY'S PRACTICE WAS TOO HIGH-LEVEL FOR ME.
MR. OTOMO AND MR. FUJIWARA HAVE BEEN WALKING ME THROUGH THE BASICS LATELY, BUT...
...WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL PRACTICAL STUFF, NOT THE STUFF WE DO IN CLASS.
EX-EB
EX-MID
FROM THE OUTSIDE IT COULD LOOK LIKE SPECIAL TREATMENT, BUT...
...THE TRUTH IS, YOU JUST MIGHT NEED TO USE IT.

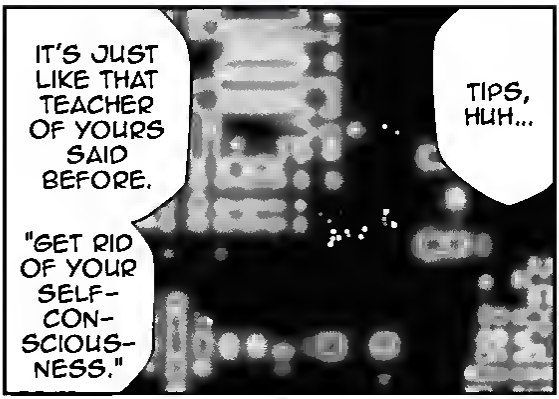

...WE'D BETTER HOPE IT'S JUST A NORMAL PRO WE'RE FACING, AND NOT ANYONE WORSE.
BUT IF A SITUATION ARISES WHERE WE NEED TO USE MAGIC TO GO INVISIBLE, WELL...


FACT IS, I'M NO GOOD WITH ANYTHING BESIDES FAMILIARS AND TALISMANS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU USE ANY MAGIC BESIDES FAMILIARS AND TALISMANS.
Boys' Locker Room

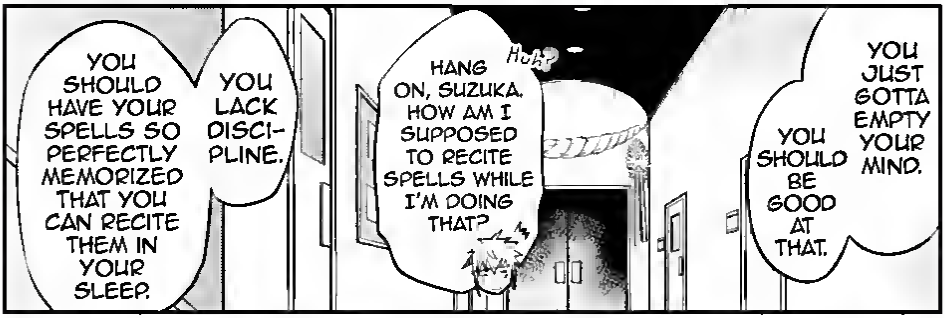
AND THIS IS WHAT I HAVE TO LOOK UP TO?
AND STILL, INVISIBILITY IS TOO HIGH-LEVEL FOR YOU??
Pfff...


HEY, DAIREN-JI.


DON'T LOOK SO SHOCKED, YOU'RE BUMMING ME OUT.
I'm doing my best, you know.
SERI-OUSLY?
WHAT? NO WAY.
GRK!


IT'S JUST LIKE THAT TEACHER OF YOURS SAID BEFORE.
"GET RID OF YOUR SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS."
TIPS, HUH...

I HAVEN'T MASTERED INVISIBILITY EITHER, BUT...
...DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS OF YOUR OWN FOR US?


YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR SPELLS SO PERFECTLY MEMORIZED THAT YOU CAN RECITE THEM IN YOUR SLEEP.
YOU LACK DISCIPLINE.
HANG ON, SUZUKA. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RECITE SPELLS WHILE I'M DOING THAT?
Huh?
YOU SHOULD BE GOOD AT THAT.
YOU JUST GOTTA EMPTY YOUR MIND.

LITTLE MISS DIVINE GENERAL IS ON SUCH A DIFFERENT LEVEL, SHE'S NO HELP AT ALL.
CRINGE...
Maaan...

BUT, I MEAN, TO USE INVISIBILITY, I DON'T EVEN NEED TO RECITE SPELLS OR ANYTHING.
HMPH

...IT'S PRETTY SURPRISING THAT SHE'S EVEN TRYING TO HELP.
STILL

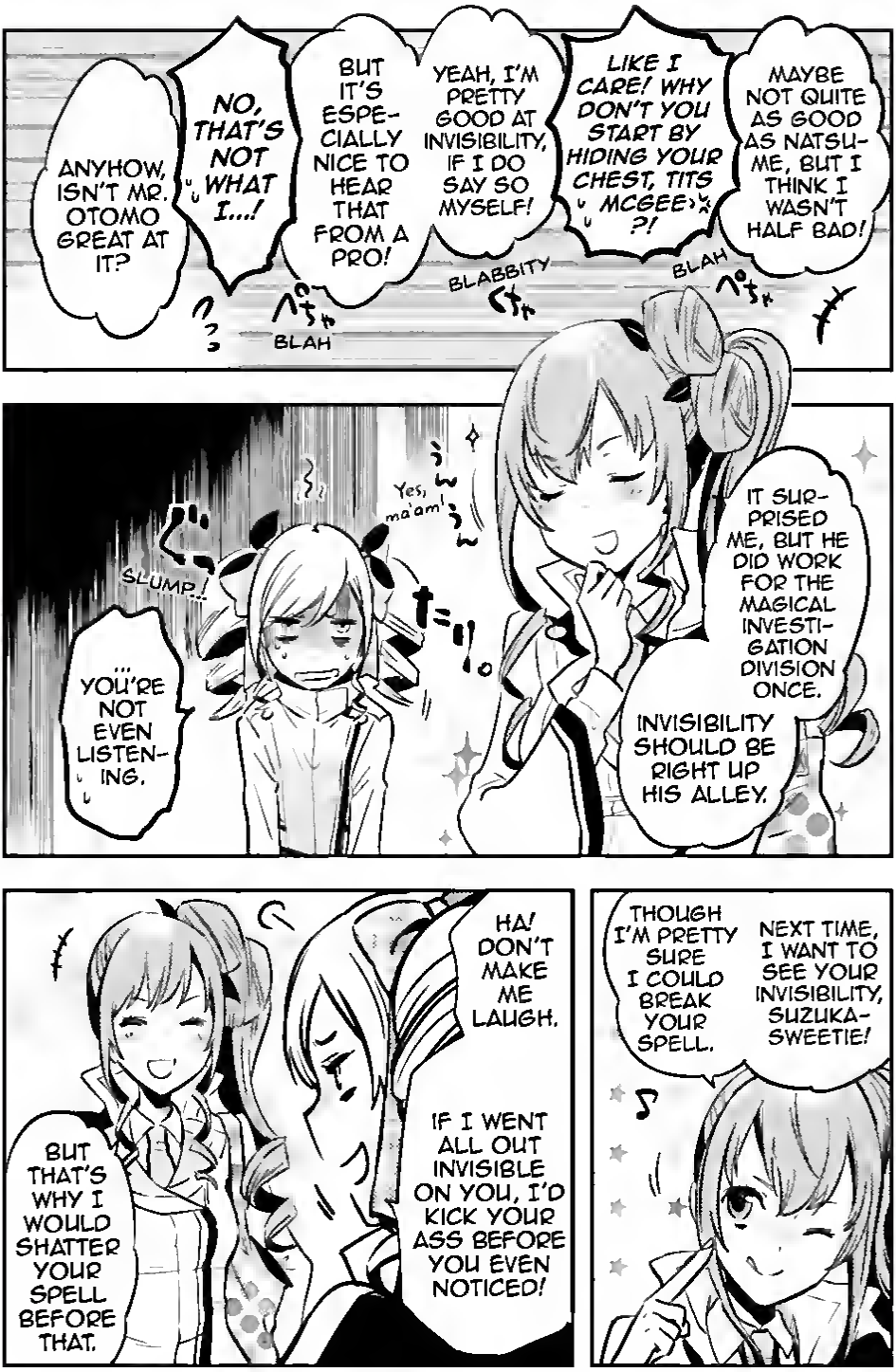
I GUESS SHE ALWAYS WAS PRETTY HONEST, DEEP DOWN.
Just in a rude way...
...SHE'S BEEN OPENING UP TO US, SLOWLY BUT STEADILY.
EVER SINCE THE SECRET MEETING AT THE TRAINING CAMP LAST MONTH...
GLANCE
チラ…
NATSU-ME'S...
SHE'S BEEN KEEPING NATSUME'S SECRET, TOO.
TELL ME IT'S CUTE!

.....
Gahh!
!!
IT'S NO USE.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR THINGS TO BE LIKE THIS, BUT...
...EVER SINCE THEN, I CAN'T EVEN LOOK NATSUME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE...
...
H-HEY, SUZUKA.
WHY DON'T YOU COME PRACTICE WITH US?
You can handle tough training, right?
HUH? WHAT WOULD I GET OUT OF DOING THAT?
OUR THANKS AND RESPECT?
THAT'S MORE LIKE A BOOBY PRIZE.
Tsk.
FINE, FINE. I'LL TREAT YOU TO A HAMBURGER.
I DON'T WANT ONE!
WHO THE HELL TRIES TO BUY OFF A DIVINE GENERAL WITH A HAMBURGER, ANYHOW?!
DON'T WORRY, I'LL UNWRAP IT FOR YOU--
GO TO HELL!

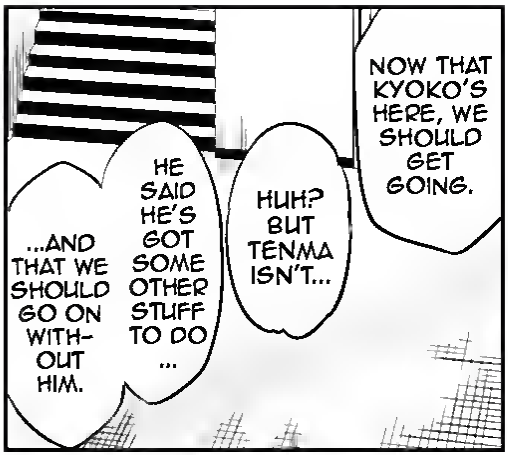
HONESTLY, I FEEL MORE AT EASE TALKING TO SUZUKA LIKE THIS LATELY.
Okay, then... How about a double burger?
I'll kill you!
BUT...
...THINGS CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY.
Oh!
W-WELL, THEN...
GLANCE
FLINCH
HOW'S NATSUME'S INVISIBILITY IN YOUR EYES, SUZUKA?
Hmph...
THINK IT'LL PASS?
... I SUPPOSE...
...IT'S ALL RIGHT? DEPENDS WHO SHE'S UP AGAINST.
TH... THANK YOU.
I GUESS IT'S NO GOOD...

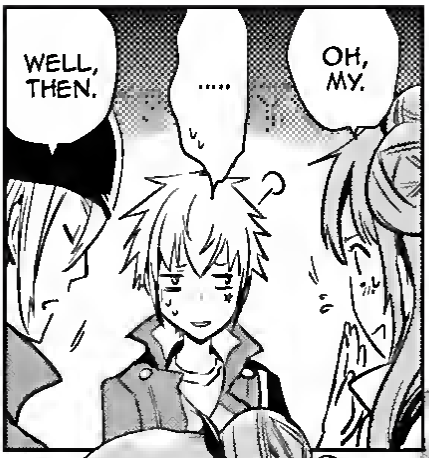
I WANT TO BE THERE FOR THEM BOTH SOMEHOW, BUT...
...I'M NO HELP TO THEM. THE WAY I AM NOW.
NATSUME IS THE ONLY ONE SUZUKA SHOWS NO SIGNS OF OPENING UP TO.
AND NATSUME'S WALLS ARE UP, TOO.
BUT THAT DREAM I HAD THIS MORNING ...
...THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE TRUE.
NO, WAIT.
I GUESS SHE'S NOT HOKUTO AFTER ALL...
HOKUTO WOULD HAVE WARMED UP REALLY QUICK, EVEN TO SUZUKA.
YEAH, IF IT WAS HER...

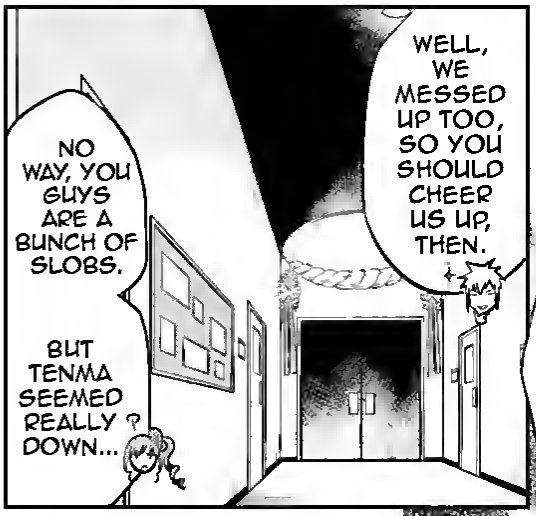
SPACING OUT...
THEN AGAIN, WASN'T HOKUTO PRETTY SHY AROUND NEW PEOPLE, TOO?
AH, BUT...
SILENCE
THANKS FOR WAITING!
OH, SUZUKA-SWEETIE!
WAS MY INVISIBILITY IMPRESSIVE, OR WHAT?
SHUT UP!
SCOOT
SCOOT
YAY!
YAY!


ANYHOW, ISN'T MR. OTOMO GREAT AT IT?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I...!
BUT IT'S ESPECIALLY NICE TO HEAR THAT FROM A PRO!
YEAH, I'M PRETTY GOOD AT INVISIBILITY, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
LIKE I CARE! WHY DON'T YOU START BY HIDING YOUR CHEST, TITS MCGEE?!
MAYBE NOT QUITE AS GOOD AS NATSUME, BUT I THINK I WASN'T HALF BAD!
BLAH
BLABBITY
BLAH
IT SURPRISED ME, BUT HE DID WORK FOR THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION ONCE.
INVISIBILITY SHOULD BE RIGHT UP HIS ALLEY.
Yes, ma'am!
SLUMP!
...YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING.
HA! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
IF I WENT ALL OUT INVISIBLE ON YOU, I'D KICK YOUR ASS BEFORE YOU EVEN NOTICED!
BUT THAT'S WHY I WOULD SHATTER YOUR SPELL BEFORE THAT.
THOUGH I'M PRETTY SURE I COULD BREAK YOUR SPELL.
NEXT TIME, I WANT TO SEE YOUR INVISIBILITY, SUZUKA-SWEETIE!

I GOT A GOOD IDEA OF YOUR MEASUREMENTS IN THE BATH, SO I'D JUST SHOUT THEM IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY, AND THEN--
Mwa ha ha
YAAARGHHH!
I'D CURSE YOU DEAD AS A DOORNAIL FIRST!
OH? THEN I'D HAVE TO DO SOMETHING EVEN MORE--
WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH MAGIC, ANYWAY?!
IT'S SECOND CLASS MAGIC, OF COURSE.
QUIT TALKING NONSENSE! ARE YOU REALLY A DAUGHTER OF THE KURAHASHI HOUSE?!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! NATSUME!
GOOD JOB TODAY.
MR. FUJIWARA WAS JUST SAYING HOW HIGH-LEVEL YOUR INVISIBILITY WAS.
H-HE WAS? THANKS ...
SUZUKA-SWEETIE, YOU WERE WATCHING TOO, RIGHT? ISN'T HIS INVISIBILITY AS GOOD AS A PRO'S?
Hmph!
I'VE BEEN ASKED THAT TWICE NOW, Y'KNOW.
I DON'T CARE, SO... SURE.
WHATEVER.


NOW THAT KYOKO'S HERE, WE SHOULD GET GOING.
HUH? BUT TENMA ISN'T...
HE SAID HE'S GOT SOME OTHER STUFF TO DO ...
...AND THAT WE SHOULD GO ON WITH-OUT HIM.


OH, MY.
.....
WELL, THEN.


WELL, WE MESSED UP TOO, SO YOU SHOULD CHEER US UP, THEN.
NO WAY, YOU GUYS ARE A BUNCH OF SLOBS.
BUT TENMA SEEMED REALLY DOWN...

Hmm...
TENMA'S BEEN DOING THAT A LOT LATELY.
HE KEPT MESSING UP IN PRACTICE TODAY, SO I THOUGHT WE SHOULD CHEER HIM UP, BUT...

Hmm...
YOU KNOW, THOUGH... RECENTLY, TENMA...
... REALLY HASN'T BEEN DOING SO GOOD.

HOLD IT, TOJI. AND WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING, KYOKO?
OH! SORRY!
PLEASE DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH HARU-TORA.

AT HOME?
OLD FRIEND OF TENMA'S
YEAH... AFTER ALL, TENMA'S THE NEXT HEIR IN AN OLD ONMYOJI FAMILY.
PLUS, HIS FAMILY SITUATION IS KINDA COMPLI-CATED.
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
I'M GLAD HE STARTED PRACTICING PRIVATELY WITH US AFTER TRAINING CAMP, BUT...
...IT KINDA FEELS LIKE HE'S BEEN SPINNING HIS WHEELS ...
WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE HIS PRACTICAL SKILLS ARE LAGGING.
HE'S UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE AT HOME, TOO...
I NEVER KNEW ...
BUT EVEN SO...
...SHOULDN'T HIS PRACTI-CAL SKILL GRADES BE BETTER THAN MINE? HIS BOOK LEARNING SURE IS
I DON'T THINK HE'S GOT ANY-THING TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT...
THAT'S IT!
IN THAT CASE, LET'S ALL GO OUT FOR KARAOKE AFTER THIS!
HUH? HOW COME?
SING-ING'S THE BEST WAY TO CHEER UP WHEN YOU'RE DOWN!
I'LL TEXT TENMA TO MEET UP WITH US LATER.
FLINCH!
K-KARAOKE?!
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE HAVEN'T GONE IN A WHILE.
IT'S NICE, EVERY SO OFTEN.
...
SMIRK
NO WAY, SUZUKA.

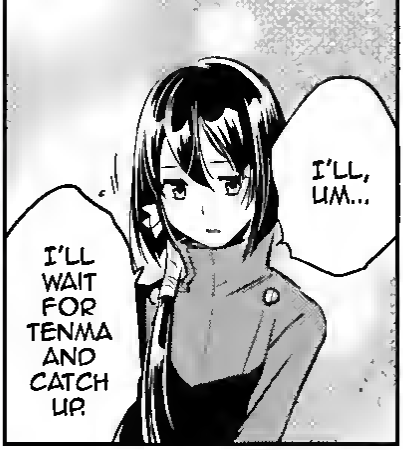
YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO KARAOKE?
GAH!
WH-WHO CARES? ANYWAY, I SURE AS HELL AIN'T SINGIN' ANY-THING!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANY SONGS!

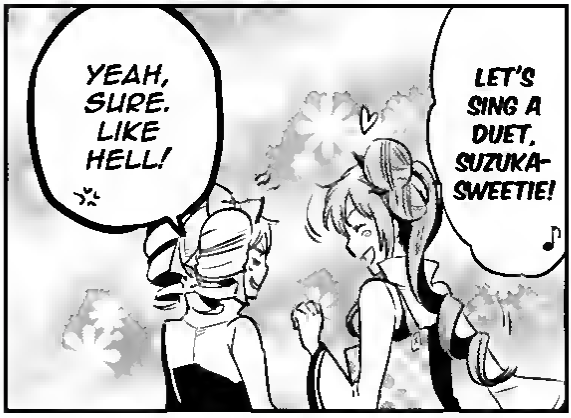
OH, REALLY ...?
HEH HEH.
THIS'LL BE FUN.
WHY ARE YOU LAUGH-ING?!
I SAID I'M NOT GOING! I DON'T WANNA GO ANY-WAY!

NO KID-DING. GOD KNOWS YOU'D NEVER GET OVER THE SHAME IF YOU WERE TONE-DEAF.
SHUT UP, YOU HEAD-BAND-WEARING FREAK!
BRING IT ON! I'LL MAKE YOU ALL BOW BEFORE MY BEAUTIFUL VOICE!

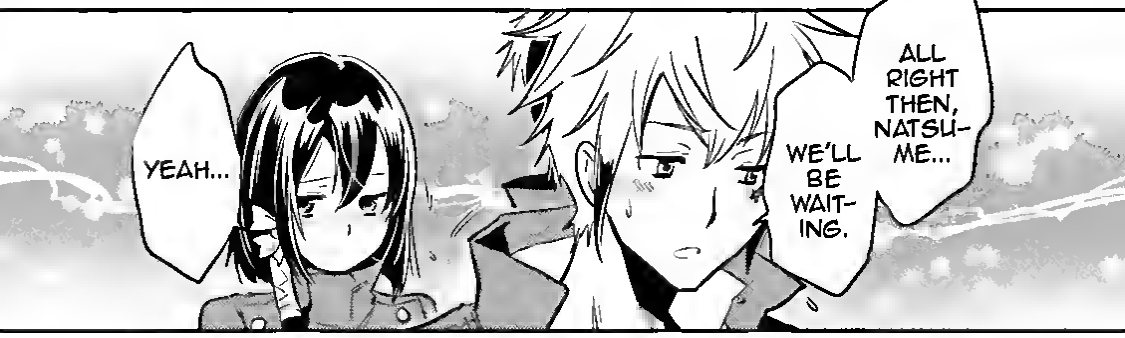
H-HARU-TORA?
NNGH...
GOOD GIRL.
IN THAT CASE, IT'S DE-CIDED.
Haha ha!
PAT PAT

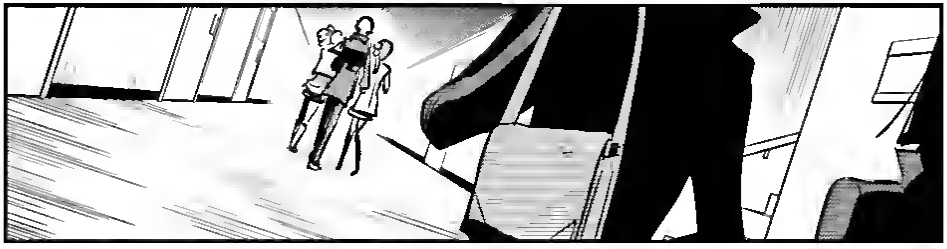
I'LL STAY BEHIND, TOO. YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD.
...


I'LL, UM...
I'LL WAIT FOR TENMA AND CATCH UP.


YEAH, SURE. LIKE HELL!
LET'S SING A DUET, SUZUKA-SWEETIE!

OKAY! SEE YOU LATER, THEN!
GET THE PARTY STARTED FOR US, OKAY?


YEAH...
WE'LL BE WAIT-ING.
ALL RIGHT THEN, NATSU-ME...



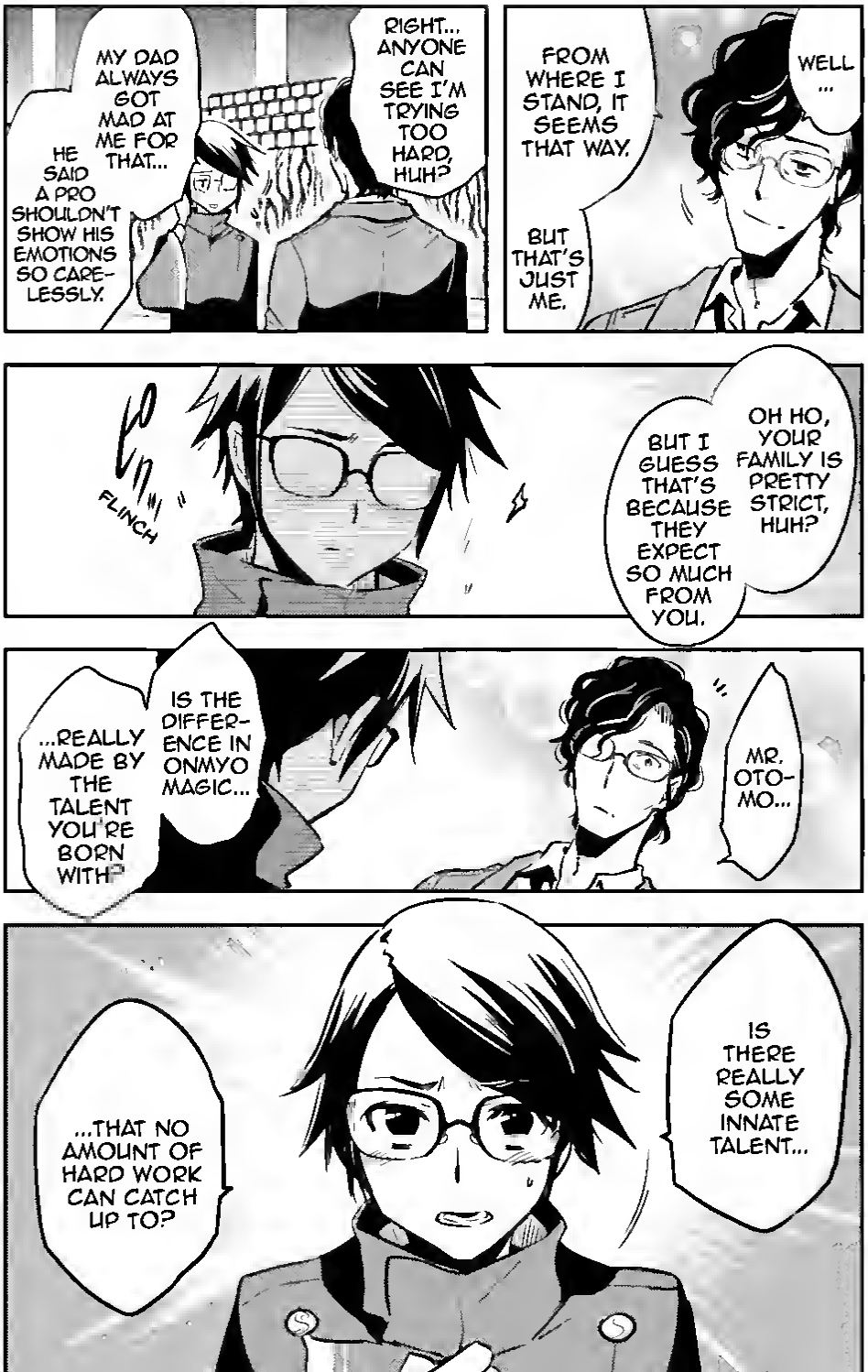
HARUTORA...
...HAS BEEN PRETTY WEIRD LATELY.
はぁ...
SIGH...
WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF HARUTORA THESE DAYS?
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, YOU SHOULD JUST SAY IT.
BUT THIS WHOLE SITUATION IS A MESS.
HUH?
TOJI...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, EITHER.
...I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
...OR WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT IT...
I DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S ACTING SO ODD...

I THINK...
...MAYBE HE'S GOTTEN SICK OF ME.
IF YOU SERIOUSLY THINK SO...
...THEN YOU'RE A REAL IDIOT.
BUT...
BUT?
GULP...
NATSUME.
AT CAMP LAST MONTH, HARUTORA ADMITTED THAT HE WAS IN LOVE WITH HOKUTO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF YOURSELF, BUT...
...THE "HOKUTO" HE'S IN LOVE WITH...
...IS DEFINITELY YOU.

... WELL.
I GUESS IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, IS IT?
...
LET'S GO, NATSUME.
WE CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND HERE, EVEN IF WE'RE WAITING FOR TENMA.
... YEAH.
OM... GREAT MARICI, I CALL TO THEE.
OM... GREAT MARICI, I CALL TO THEE.
OM... ADITYA AND MARICI, I CALL TO THEE.
OM... ADITYA AND MARICI, I CALL TO THEE...
SNAP

SNP
OM... ADITYA AND MARICI...
...I CALL TO THEE...
SLIP...
SIGH...
.....
YOU WERE CLOSE THAT TIME, YOU KNOW.
?!
Gah!

NO NEED TO ACT SO SURPRISED.
MR. OTOMO ...
PUTTING IN OVERTIME ALONE, HUH?
QUITE THE HARD WORKER.
SMILE
THOUGH I GUESS THAT'S PROOF THAT YOU WERE REALLY CONCENTRATING ON YOUR MAGIC.
TAP
I'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME.
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD HIDDEN MYSELF.
TAP
AM I PUSHING MYSELF TOO FAST?
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
...OF PUSHING YOURSELF TOO FAST.
BUT DON'T OVERDO IT. NOTHING GOOD COMES ...

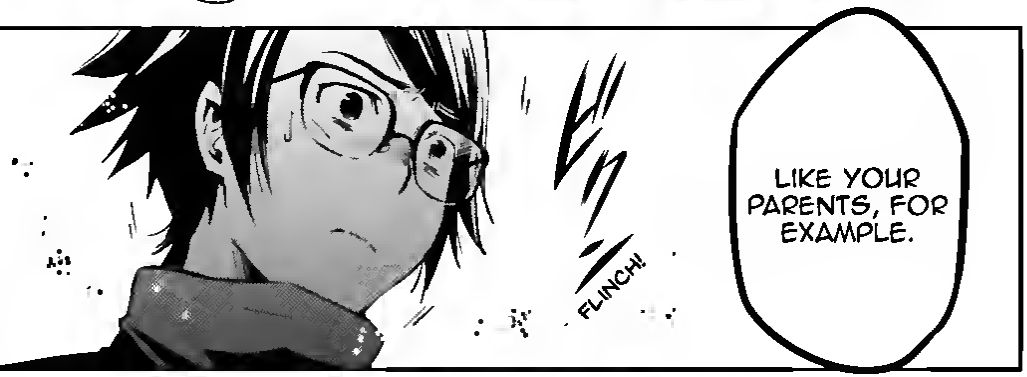

RIGHT... ANYONE CAN SEE I'M TRYING TOO HARD, HUH?
MY DAD ALWAYS GOT MAD AT ME FOR THAT...
HE SAID A PRO SHOULDN'T SHOW HIS EMOTIONS SO CARELESSLY.
WELL...
FROM WHERE I STAND, IT SEEMS THAT WAY.
BUT THAT'S JUST ME.
OH HO, YOUR FAMILY IS PRETTY STRICT, HUH?
BUT I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE THEY EXPECT SO MUCH FROM YOU.
FLINCH
MR. OTOMO...
IS THE DIFFERENCE IN ONMYO MAGIC...
...REALLY MADE BY THE TALENT YOU'RE BORN WITH?
IS THERE REALLY SOME INNATE TALENT...
...THAT NO AMOUNT OF HARD WORK CAN CATCH UP TO?

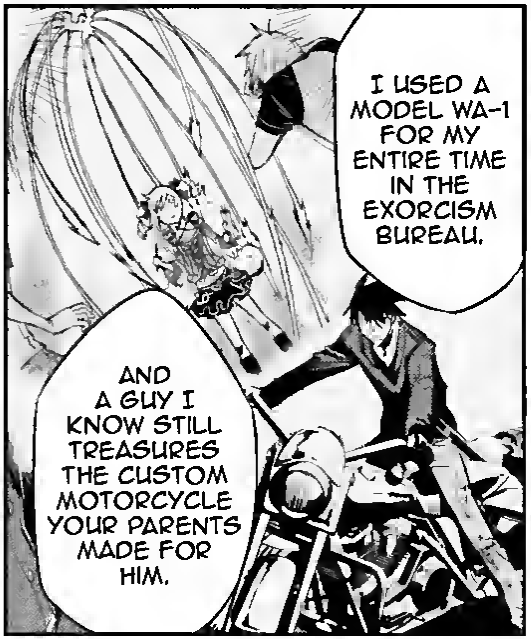
OF COURSE.
FLINCH!
!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SAID SO IN CLASS? IT'S OBVIOUS.
I DUNNO HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE SPIRIT SEERS, BUT...
...THE NUMBER IS PRETTY SMALL.
LET ALONE THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO COULD BE-COME PRO MAGES.

I...
...COULD BECOME AN ONMYOJI, COULDN'T I?
THESE DAYS, THE FIELD OF MAGIC IS "SET" FROM THE BEGINNING SO THAT--
MR. OTOMO!
PLEASE, JUST TELL ME!
I DUNNO.

BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
SURE, I CAN MEASURE YOUR TRUE STRENGTH RIGHT NOW.
BUT YOUR FUTURE STRENGTH? I CAN'T MEASURE THAT.
BUT...!
ISN'T TALENT DECIDED FROM BIRTH?!
YOUR TALENT?
SURE.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL YOU NEED TO BE A MAGE.
WHAT WE CALL "MAGIC" IS A SURPRISINGLY COMPLEX THING.
IT COMES IN ALL KINDS OF FORMS.
IT'S SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE VAGUE UNDERSTANDING ...
...THAT YOU'RE JUST BEGINNING TO FORM NOW.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

HMM.
WELL, IN OTHER WORDS, THE "TALENT" YOU NEED FOR MAGIC ... ...REALLY APPLIES TO QUITE A NUMBER OF DIF-FERENT THINGS.
TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, WHAT-EVER YOUR TALENTS ARE, THEY CAN BECOME WEAPONS.


LIKE YOUR PARENTS, FOR EXAMPLE.
FLINCH!

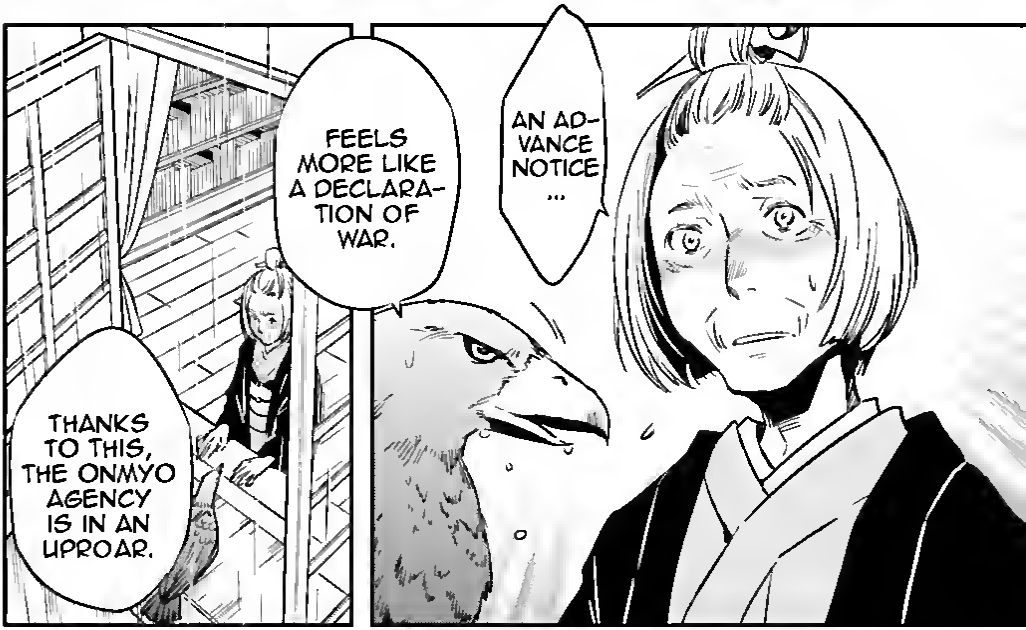

I USED A MODEL WA-1 FOR MY ENTIRE TIME IN THE EXORCISM BUREAU.
AND A GUY I KNOW STILL TREASURES THE CUSTOM MOTORCYCLE YOUR PARENTS MADE FOR HIM.

TRUTH BE TOLD, YOUR PARENTS WEREN'T THE MOST OUT-STANDING MAGES OUT THERE.
BUT EVEN SO, THE WORK THEY DID WAS INVALU-ABLE.

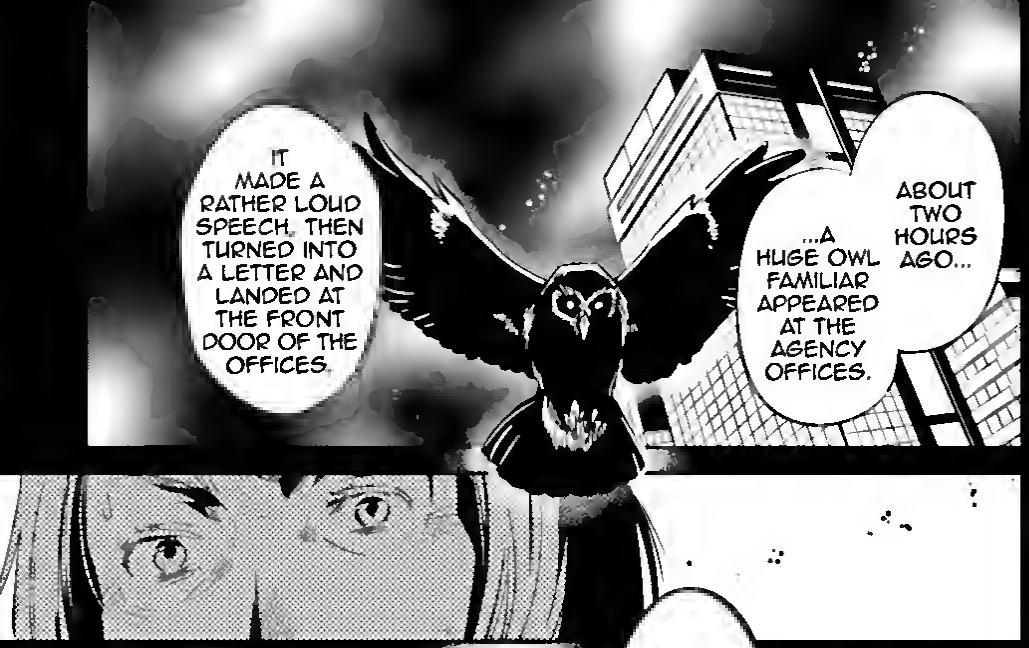
.....
...MAKES FOR A FINE ONMYOJI, DON'T YOU THINK?
CONTRIBUTING SOMETHING BEYOND YOUR TALENTS AS A MUSE...
NO...
THANK YOU...SIR.
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO ANSWER TO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
THAT SAID, IT WASN'T FAIR OF ME TO COMPARE YOU TO YOUR PARENTS AT THIS POINT.
PAT
...WHEN WE ACCEPTED YOU AS A STUDENT.
ONMYO PREP ASSESSED YOUR QUALIFICATIONS ...
REMEMBER, TENMA.
TAP...

TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH...
...AND TRUST IN OUR JUDGMENT, HMM?
SSSSSS...
AN ADVANCE NOTICE?
校長室
PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE
IF IT'S A PRANK, IT'S A PARTIC-ULARLY GOOD ONE.
ARE YOU CER-TAIN?

A PRANK THAT COULD EVEN TAKE THE KURAHASHI ASTROLOGER BY SURPRISE?
THAT'S WAY BEYOND MY SKILL TO THINK UP.


AN ADVANCE NOTICE ...
FEELS MORE LIKE A DECLARATION OF WAR.
THANKS TO THIS, THE ONMYO AGENCY IS IN AN UPROAR.

HMPH... WE SPEND HOW LONG HUNTING HIM WITHOUT A HINT OF SUCCESS, AND NOW HE PRANCES OUT INTO BROAD DAYLIGHT?
HE'S MADE A LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE ENTIRE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION.


ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO...
...A HUGE OWL FAMILIAR APPEARED AT THE AGENCY OFFICES.
IT MADE A RATHER LOUD SPEECH, THEN TURNED INTO A LETTER AND LANDED AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE OFFICES.

END OF CHAPTER 42

TOKYO RAVENS

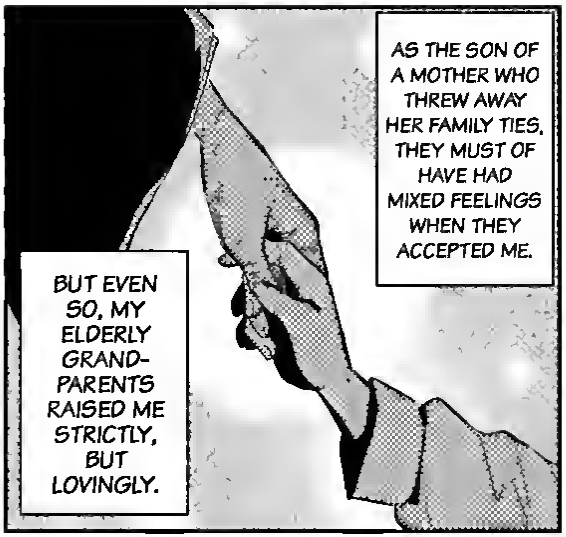
CHA
RAINY
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
SSSSSSS...
"ON THE MOR-ROW...
"...DO-MAN ASHIYA WILL COME TO CLAIM THE RAVEN'S COAT."
...OR SO IT SAID.
I'VE HEARD THAT THE REAL ONE IS...
...IS AT ONMYO PREP.
FWMP...
.....
ONLY THE GODS THEM-SELVES KNOW...
... WHETHER HE KNOWS THAT TRUTH.

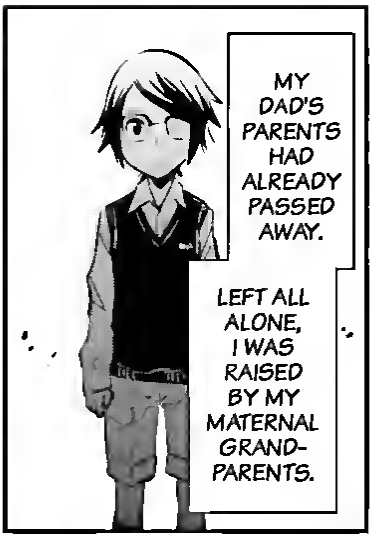
HOWEVER THE DICE ROLLS, WE MUST BE PERFECTLY PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE OUTCOME, BUT...
...WELL, REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S A TRICKY PROBLEM
AT ANY RATE, AT LEAST I'VE GOT YOU, MIYO.
PLEASE KEEP A FIRM GRASP ON THE SITUATION.
HELLO? THIS IS KURAHASHI. YES, THANK YOU.
CLICK...
I'M SORRY TO ASK THIS, BUT...
...COULD YOU PLEASE CALL MR. OTOMO AND MR. FUJIWARA FOR ME?
SSSSSSS...
...MM-HM.
YES.
IT'S AN EMERGENCY.

CHAPTER 43
RAINY SEASON

KARAOKE
THIS ONE! I'M DOING THIS ONE NEXT!
GIMME THE REMOTE, QUICK!
TA-DAH!
CLICK...
YOU TWO SURE TOOK YOUR TIME!
NA-TSUME AND TOJI!
WHERE'S THE GUEST OF HONOR?
HUH? WAIT...
YEAH.
...

HE WENT HOME.
SAID HE WASN'T FEELING GOOD.
SSSSSSS...
LIKE...
...YOUR PARENTS, FOR EXAMPLE.
SHE WAS THE HEIR TO THAT FAMOUS, ANCIENT LINE OF ONMYOJI...
...BUT SHE MET MY DAD, ELOPED, AND NATURALLY LEFT HER HOME.
IN THE END, UNTIL THE DAY THEY DIED IN THAT ACCIDENT, SHE NEVER WENT BACK.
SSSSSSS...
THE MOMOE ARE MY MOM'S FAMILY.


AS THE SON OF A MOTHER WHO THREW AWAY HER FAMILY TIES, THEY MUST OF HAVE HAD MIXED FEELINGS WHEN THEY ACCEPTED ME.
BUT EVEN SO, MY ELDERLY GRAND-PARENTS RAISED ME STRICTLY, BUT LOVINGLY.

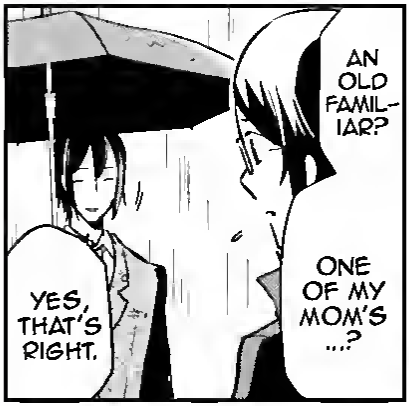

MY DAD'S PARENTS HAD ALREADY PASSED AWAY.
LEFT ALL ALONE, I WAS RAISED BY MY MATERNAL GRAND-PARENTS.

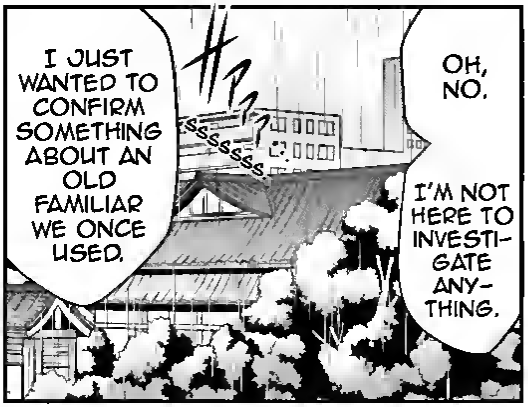
SSSSSSS...
THEIR HOPES FOR ME WERE ALL TOO EASY TO SEE.

A PRO...
...HUH?
MR. OTOMO WAS KIND TO SAY THAT. BUT...
...AND TRUST IN OUR JUDG-MENT, HMM?
TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE FAITH...

...HOW HARD IT WOULD BE FOR ME...
LATELY IT'S BECOME PAINFULLY CLEAR TO ME...
...TO BECOME A FULLY-FLEDGED ONMYOJI AS THE HEIR TO THE MOMOE FAMILY...
...TO BE THE ONE TO MAKE ALL THEIR DREAMS COME TRUE.
ARE YOU, BY CHANCE ...
...TENMA MOMOE?
YES ...?
WHO'S THAT...?

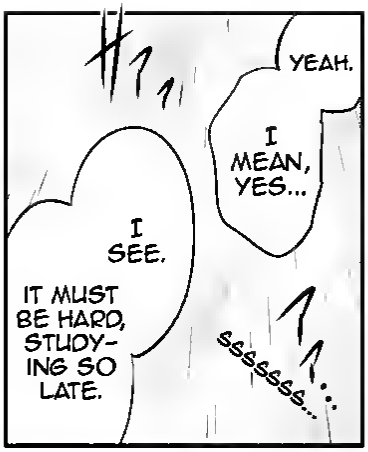
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
I'M ATSUNE HIRATA...
...FROM THE MAGICAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION.
A MAGIC INVESTIGATOR?
UM... IS THERE A PROBLEM?


AN OLD FAMILIAR?
ONE OF MY MOM'S ...?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.


OH, NO.
I'M NOT HERE TO INVESTIGATE ANYTHING.
I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM SOMETHING ABOUT AN OLD FAMILIAR WE ONCE USED.

IN THAT CASE...
...YOU SHOULD GO TO THE MANUFACTURER, THE WITCHCRAFT COMPANY, NOT--
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
YOUR GRANDFATHER TOLD ME THE SAME THING JUST NOW.

THAT "OLD FAMILIAR"...
BUT IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS WAITING FOR SOMETHING...
OH... SO I GUESS HE'S ON HIS WAY OUT.
YES, IT SEEMS IT WAS A PROTOTYPE.
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ANALYZING IT MYSELF, BUT...
...IT HAS A SIMPLE, YET VERY IDIOSYNCRATIC OPERATING PROCEDURE.
SMILE
MOMOE
百枝
IF YOU CAME HERE, THEN...
...IS IT MY MOM'S ORIGINAL MODEL, NOT A MANUFACTURED VERSION?
AND YOUR FATHER WAS A CHIEF ENGINEER, AS WELL, WASN'T HE?
JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM A CHIEF DESIGNER AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF WITCHCRAFT.
...
CLENCH...
YOUR PARENTS' NAMES ARE FAMOUS AMONG THOSE IN OUR FIELD.


YEAH.
I MEAN, YES...
I SEE.
IT MUST BE HARD, STUDYING SO LATE.
SSSSSS...

DID YOU JUST COME FROM ONMYO PREP, TENMA?
...

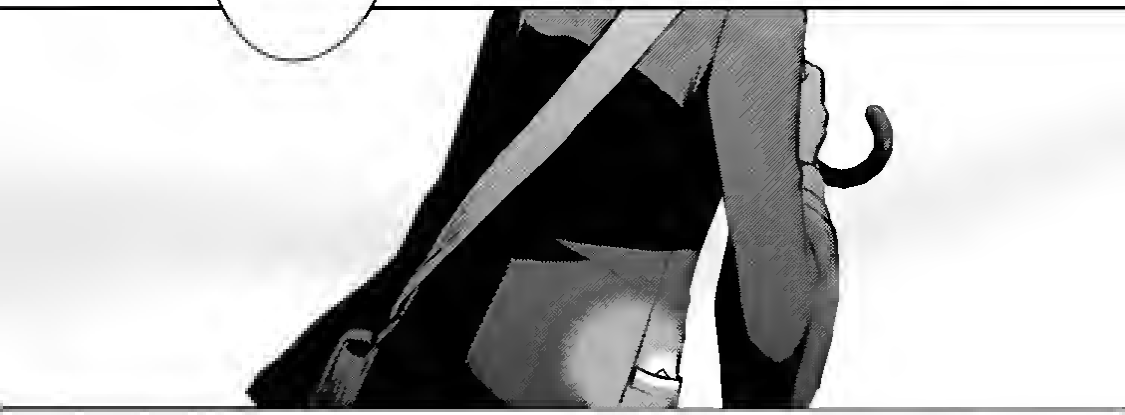
NOT REALLY ...

OH!
OH! N-NOT AT ALL!

I'M SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU OUT HERE IN THE RAIN.
AT ANY RATE, I SHOULD BE GOING.
SHEE...

BOW
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T BE MORE HELP TO...
SMILE
SHFF...

WAIT ...
SSSSSSS...
HOW DID...
...THAT GUY KNOW MY NAME...?
?
?



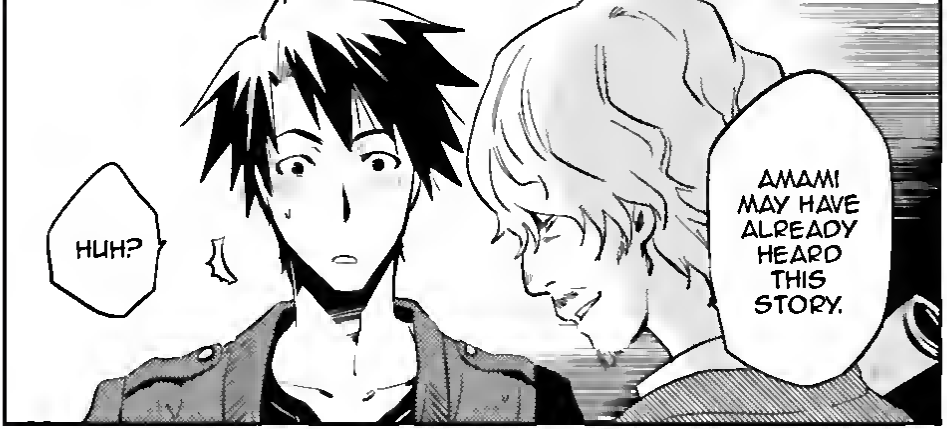
WHAT?
ONMYO AGENCY AKIHABARA OFFICE
(LATER THAT NIGHT)

THERE'S A CHANCE THAT "D"...
...WILL SHOW UP AT ONMYO PREP AND NOT THE ONMYO AGENCY?
EXORCISM BUREAU'S PURIFICATION CONTROL ROOM MONITOR AND INDEPENDENT EXORCIST IWAO MIYACHI
WHO'S THIS SO-CALLED INFORMANT?
A... FORMER CLASSMATE.
...SO WE WERE UNABLE TO BRING IT UP AT THE BIG STRATEGY MEETING ABOUT THE "D" ISSUE JUST NOW, BUT...
WELL... IT WAS JUST A TIP FROM AN INFORMANT ...
THE GHOST DIVISION, HUH?
SHE WORKED FOR THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY
NO...HER NAME IS SAOTOME.
HMM? YOU MEAN OTOMO?

SHE LEFT THE DIVISION BEFORE THE TERRORIST ATTACK TWO YEARS AGO.
THERE SHOULD BE NO CONNEC-TION.
IS SHE ONE OF THE TWIN HORNS SYN--
NO.
SHE SAYS SHE WAS RESEARCH-ING YAKO TSUCHIMI-KADO.
AND THAT THE RAVEN'S COAT WE HAVE NOW IS A REPLICA AND THE REAL THING IS AT ONMYO PREP.
THE REAL THING, AT ONMYO PREP?
I LAUGHED TOO, AT FIRST.
BUT IT'S NOT AN IMPOS-SIBLE STORY.
THE PRINCIPAL OF ONMYO PREP IS THE FORMER HEAD OF THE KURA-HASHI.
SHE KNEW YAKO WHEN HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

I DO REMEMBER HEARING FROM CHIEF AMAMI THAT SHE'S BEEN...
...SERVING AS PRIESTESS SINCE SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
BACK THEN, SHE HAD TO HAVE BEEN...
...LET'S SEE...
...WELL, A CHILD OF ABOUT TEN, AT THE MOST.
AND YAKO DIED THE YEAR THE WAR ENDED.
AFTER YAKO'S DEATH, THE ONES WHO TURNED THE HALF-LOCKED-DOWN ONMYO BUREAU INTO THE ONMYO AGENCY OF TODAY...
...WERE THE KURAHASHI MEMBERS WHO ONCE WORKED THERE WITH YAKO.
EVEN SO, THE IDEA OF HER INHERITING THE RAVEN'S--
SHE MAY NOT HAVE, PERSONALLY.
WELL, THEY ...
GULP...
...LADY KURAHASHI'S HAD NO REASON TO KEEP HIDING AWAY THE RAVEN'S COAT AFTER THE WAR ENDED, RIGHT?
I SEE.
HOWEVER, I'D STILL SAY...

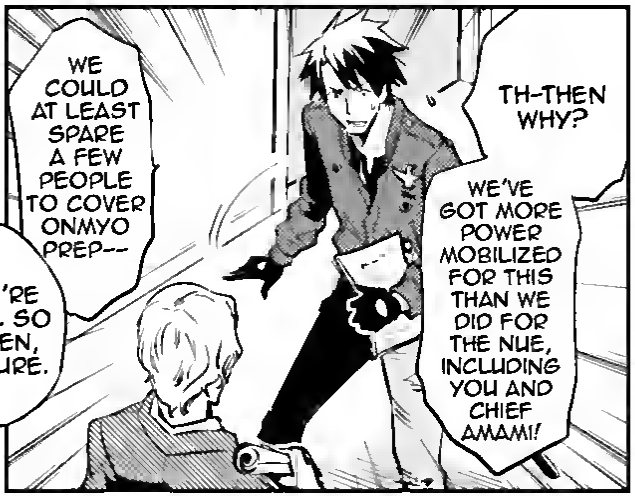
WE CAN'T TAKE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE ...
...OF EXPOSING THOSE MINORS TO DANGER!
AT ANY RATE, I DOUBT "D" IS AWARE OF SUCH RARE INFORMATION.
HIS NOTICE WAS ADDRESSED TO THE MAIN OFFICES, TOO. IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY --
SIR, I'M BEGGING YOU!
PLEASE, ADVISE CHIEF AMAMI TO ALLOCATE PERSONNEL...
...TO ONMYO PREP, TOO, NOT JUST THE AGENCY OFFICES!
KOGURE...
Heh


HUH?
AMAMI MAY HAVE ALREADY HEARD THIS STORY.

ANYHOW, AMAMI AND THAT LADY KURAHASHI UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER.
BUT I SUSPECT...
...HE MAY BE DOING SOME FACT-CHECKING OVER AT ONMYO PREP, AS WELL.

HE'S THE HEAD OF THE INTEL DIVISION, AFTER ALL.
HE MAY KNOW, AND STILL BE POSITIONING US AROUND THE OFFICES, READY TO COUNTER-ATTACK.

YOU THINK LADY KURAHASHI HASN'T RECOGNIZED THAT FACT?

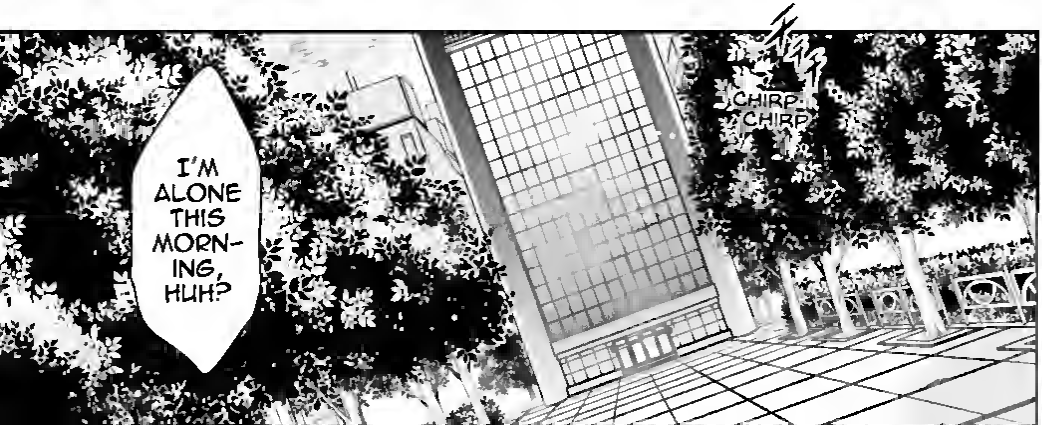

YOU'RE STILL SO GREEN, KOGURE.
WE COULD AT LEAST SPARE A FEW PEOPLE TO COVER ONMYO PREP--
TH-THEN WHY?
WE'VE GOT MORE POWER MOBILIZED FOR THIS THAN WE DID FOR THE NUE, INCLUDING YOU AND CHIEF AMAMI!

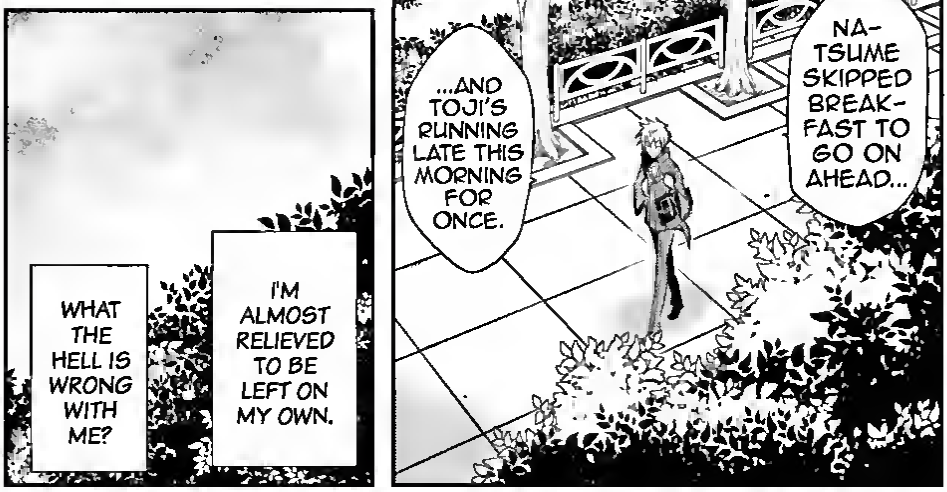
OF COURSE SHE HAS.
BUT TO REQUEST BODY-GUARDS FROM THE AGENCY FOR ONMYO PREP...
...SHE'D HAVE TO ADMIT TO CONCEAL-ING THE RAVEN'S COAT.
OH...!
IF SHE DOES THAT, OF COURSE THE MAIN OFFICE WILL DEMAND THAT SHE HAND OVER THE REAL RAVEN'S COAT.
WHICH MEANS, SHE'S WEIGHED THE CHANCES OF BEING EXPOSED TO THE MENACE OF "D"...
...AND SHE DOESN'T WANT TO HAND OVER THE RAVEN'S COAT...
...TO THE ONMYO AGENCY HQ.
BUT... WHY?
ISN'T CHIEF KURA-HASHI HER OWN SON?
AND SHOULDN'T IT BE FAR SAFER AND MORE SECURE TO LET THE AGENCY HANDLE THIS THAN ONMYO PREP?
GLARE
YOU'RE GETTING SLACK, KOGURE.

HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN THE INCIDENT AT ONMYO PREP LAST SUMMER?
BOOM!
...!
ONE OF OUR OWN MAGIC INVESTIGATORS WAS PART OF THE TWIN HORN SYNDICATE.
IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN NOW THAT THE GHOST DIVISION IS ABOLISHED, THE TWIN HORN SYNDICATE IS STILL GOING STRONG.
AND ITS MEMBERS ARE PROBABLY HIDDEN IN NO SMALL NUMBER AMONG THE OFFICES OF THE ONMYO AGENCY.
THAT MIGHT JUST BE WHY AMAMI'S NOT SENDING A STRONG FORCE TO ONMYO PREP.
IF THE MAIN OFFICE TAKES BACK THE RAVEN'S COAT...
...ONLY TO HAVE IT FALL INTO THE TWIN HORNS' HANDS. SAVING IT FROM "D" WON'T MATTER.
UGH...
WELL, IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THEY CONSIDERED ALL THAT...
...BEFORE SETTLING ON THEIR STRATEGY FOR THIS INCIDENT.
...

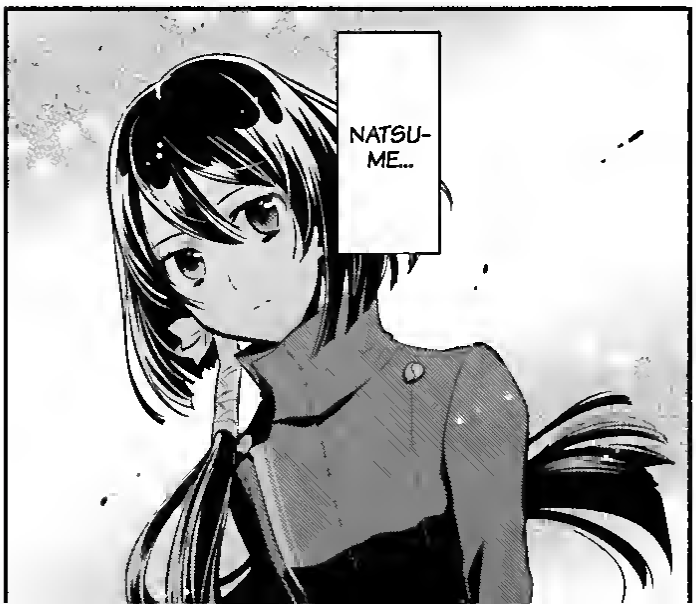
BECAUSE, IF YOU SORT IT OUT...
BONK
...FOR NOW, JUST FOCUS ON THE TASK YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN.
ANYHOW, KOGURE ...
...I'LL BE ABLE TO KICK BACK AND RELAX.
GRIN
MAYBE...CHIEF AMAMI AND PRINCIPAL KURAHASHI'S DECISION WAS MADE...
...AFTER TAKING THE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES OF ONMYO PREP INTO ACCOUNT, TOO.
IF YOU THINK OF IT THAT WAY...
...IT ALSO EXPLAINS WHY THEY DIDN'T INVITE HIM TO THE ANTI-"D" STRATEGY MEETING, EVEN SECRETLY.

ONE TEACHER COULD, AT THE VERY LEAST, SERVE AS A SHIELD...
...TO PROTECT THE STUDENTS IF "D" TRIES TO ATTACK ONMYO PREP.
ONLY ONE PERSON HAS FACED DOWN "D" AND LIVED TO TELL THE TALE—
DAM-MIT...
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...


I'M ALONE THIS MORN-ING, HUH?
CHIRP-CHIRP


NA-TSUME SKIPPED BREAK-FAST TO GO ON AHEAD...
...AND TOJI'S RUNNING LATE THIS MORNING FOR ONCE.
I'M ALMOST RELIEVED TO BE LEFT ON MY OWN.
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH ME?

KARAOKE YESTER-DAY GOT PRETTY WEIRD, TOO...
AND HERE I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO TALK NORMAL-LY TO NATSU-ME...
...IF EVERY-BODY WAS FIRED UP TRYING TO CHEER UP TENMA.


NATSU-ME...

WAS SHE THE ONE CONTROL-LING HOKUTO?
IS THAT EVEN POSSI-BLE?
I MEAN, THEY'RE NOT THAT SIMILAR--
もん THINK
もん THINK
もん THINK
WHEN SHE'S WEARING HER BOYS' CLOTHES, NATSUME IS KINDA--
OH... BUT THEN AGAIN...
もん THINK
もん THINK
GAHH! DAMMIT!
URGGHH
IT WOULD BE SUCH A RELIEF TO JUST ASK HER MYSELF...
BUT.
BUT...

THE PERSON I LOVE WAS KISSING SOMEBODY ELSE!
I CAN'T ASK HER.
SOMEHOW I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO KNOW FOR SURE.
NA-TSUME?
AND ME?
SHE'D NEVER...
NO WAY...
BUT WAIT...
WHAT IF...
YEAH, WHAT IF...

...TH-THEN SHE'D BE ADMITTING TO SAYING SHE L-LOVED ME!
IF NATSUME EVER DID ADMIT TO BEING HOKUTO...
WHAT?
WHAT?!
TH-THAT MEANS...
BAIDUMP
...THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD DO IT IS NATSUME, RIGHT?
HE'S PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF IT.
ESPE-CIALLY NATSU-ME.
IT WAS LIKE HE WAS POSSES-SING HIS SIMPLE FAMILIAR.
BAIDUMP
BAIDUMP
NO WAY...
BAIDUMP

I'LL...
...GIVE YOU A KISS.
...LOVE...
...YOU...
I...
...REALLY POSSIBLE?
IS IT...
M-MASTER HARU-TORA?
ARE YOU FEEL-ING ALL RIGHT?
Grahhh!
GAHH! DAMMIT!
GASP
K-KON?

THIS REALLY ISN'T LIKE ME.
THIS IS SO LAME...
I'M SERI-OUSLY CREEP-ING MYSELF OUT.
SORRY. IT'S NOTHING.
I-I-I'M PLEASED TO HEAR IT, BUT...
MASTER, ARE YOU PERHAPS ...
...WORRIED ABOUT LORD NATSUME?
HUH?!
UM...
WELL ...
HEH... WELL, YEAH.
I GUESS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOK-ING.
YOU'RE RIGHT, KON.
BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING YOU--
I AM W-WELL AWARE OF THE REASON FOR YOUR WORRIES, MASTER.
HUH?

IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE SO KIND-HEARTED, M-MASTER!
YOU ARE TOO KIND-HEARTED, AND THAT IS WHY YOU WORRY SO!
GUH?!
FLINCH!
KIND-HEARTED?
NO. I'M NOT.
IF ANY-THING, I'M THE OPPOSITE OF IT.
YEAH.
I...
I HAVEN'T ...
...BEEN THINKING OF ANYBODY BUT MYSELF, HAVE I?

I'VE BEEN THOUGHT-LESSLY STRAINING ALL OUR FRIEND-SHIPS...
...BY WORRYING SO MUCH ABOUT HOW I SHOULD TALK TO HER.
BECAUSE, IF NATSUME DOES TURN OUT TO BE HOKUTO...
...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH MY OWN FEELINGS.
POOF!
M-M-MASTER, WHAT'S WRONG?!
SLUMP
UGH...
KON...
I'M GLAD YOU SAID THAT.
THANK YOU.
OF...
OF COURSE?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

DAMMIT...
I'M SO...
...DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF.
gloom...
HOKUTO NEVER REVEALED HER IDENTITY, EVEN TO THE VERY END.
MAYBE SHE HAD A REASON FOR THAT.
IF NATSUME IS HOKUTO, WHY DIDN'T SHE SAY ANY-THING?
THAT'S RIGHT.
NATSU-ME'S FEELINGS ...
OH!
M-MAS-TER HARU-TORA!
SHAME ON ME...
SHAKE
SHAKE
I NEVER EVEN CON-SIDERED IT, JUST THOUGHT ABOUT MYSELF.
AND IF SHE DID HAVE A REASON ...

M--MASTER HARU-TORA!
I'M...
...A COMPLETE AND TOTAL...
NO, THAT'S NOT...
DON'T TRY TO COMFORT ME.
FORGET IT, KON.
やさやさ やさやさ
SHAKE SHAKE... SHAKE
PERVERT.
YEAH, A COMPLETE AND TOTAL PERV--
HUH?

END OF CHAPTER 43

TOKYO RAVENS

PERVERT.
CHAPTER 44
VISIT

S...
SENIOR ...?
YOU'VE GONE TO SUCH LENGTHS FOR A PEEK UP MY SKIRT?
HUH?
OH!
I-I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
GASP
IN EXCHANGE, I SHALL TAKE A LOOK AT KON'S UNDERP--
STARE...
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU SICKO!
SIGH...
GOOD MORNING, SENIOR.
I SEE YOU'VE POPPED OUT OF NOWHERE, AS USUAL.
SHFF SHFF
GOOD MORNING.
IT HAS BEEN QUITE A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

STARE...
じぃ～っ
SHFF
SEN-
IOR...
G-GOOD
MORNING
...
GOOD
MORNING
TO YOU,
TOO,
KON.
Hey!
SPEAK-
ING OF
"A WHILE,"
I JUST
REMEM-
BERED!
YOU
TRICKED
ME BACK
THEN,
DAMMIT!
TRICKED
YOU?
I DON'T
RECALL.
LIAR! YOUR
REASON FOR
SKIPPING
CLASS BACK
THEN WAS--
WHAT?
WHAT
DID I
SAY
THAT
TRICKED
YOU?
URK!
ギク
GULP!
UH,
WELL...
Y'SEE...
CAN
YOU TELL ME
SPECIFICALLY?

IT'S THA TIME OF THE MONTH.
WELL?
WHAT DID I SAY?
GAH...
YOU BRAT ...
Rrrgh...
WE ARE ONMYOJI, AFTER ALL.
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR BEING TRICKED.
NATU-RALLY.
I GIVE UP!
Gahh!
FINE! I GET IT!
Grahhhh!
I wanna kick your ass!
FOR ONE THING, I HAVEN'T EVEN MET AUNT FLO YET.
SHUT UP, PRUDE.
YOU JUST ADMITTED TO TRICKING ME!
BLUNT

...I HAVE NEVER TOLD A LIE.
EVER SINCE THE VERY DAY I WAS BORN...
ARE YOU LEADING ME ON AGAIN?! THAT'S GOTTA BE A LIE--
I'M NOT LYING. I'M JUST MAKING A FOOL OF YOU.
I AM TOTALLY KICKING YOUR ASS!
SIGH...
LISTEN... SENIOR...
LYING IS THE TRUE ESSENCE OF MAGIC.
EXHAUSTED
"DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE TRUE ESSENCE OF MAGIC IS?
"THE ANSWER IS 'LYING'."
- YAKO TSU-CHIMI-KADO
SURE, I'VE HEARD THAT, BUT...
THIS ISN'T MAGIC, YOU'RE JUST A LIAR!
I TOLD YOU, THE PART ABOUT AUNT FLO WASN'T A LIE.
THAT AGAIN?!

AWW, IT'S TOO BAD...
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE A DUDE, AND I COULD TURN YOU IN TO THE PRINCIPAL!
Rrrgh...
THOSE WHO LOVE LITTLE GIRLS LIVE IN A TIME OF ETERNITY.
Ah.
SO YOU ARE AWARE OF HOW WEIRD YOU ARE.
YOU'LL END UP A CRIMINAL.
I DON'T ADVISE IT.
DON'T CALL ME THAT, IT'S RUDE.
SIGH...
GEEZ. WELL, AT LEAST MY WORRIES ARE GONE FOR NOW.
MAYBE IT'D BE EASIER IF I JUST LIVED MY LIFE HONESTLY LIKE YOU DO, SENIOR.
LIKE ME?
GAHH... FINE, FINE.
I'LL JUST STICK WITH "SENIOR," THEN.
ACTUALLY, I NEVER DID LEARN YOUR NAME--
I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE YOU MY NAME, PRUDE.

.....
"LITTLE GIRL SENIOR"?
YEAH.
OH! HEY, HOW ABOUT I CALL YOU "LITTLE GIRL SENIOR"?
SOMETHING STRAIGHT TO THE POINT LIKE THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, RIGHT?
IT WOULD BE AN HONOR.
TURN
THAT'S NOT HOW I MEANT IT!
DAMMIT, ARE YOU BLUSHING NOW?!
IT'S NOT AN HONOR! IT'S AN INSULT!
I COULD ADVISE YOU, TO EXPRESS MY THANKS.
YEAH, BUT IT'S GOT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
...WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
BY THE WAY, HARUTORA...
FINE! I'LL JUST CALL YOU "SENIOR"!
...WHEN YOU CALL ME THAT.
SPEAK UP LOUD AND CLEAR ...
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!

Hmph!
THE SAD LITTLE WORRIES OF A PRUDE...
WELL, EXCUSE ME!
IT MUST BE... LOVE.
I SAID ——
IT IS, ISN'T IT?
W-WELL, I...
TAKE MY ADVICE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.
.....
WOW.
THAT WAS SUPER HELP-FUL.
わぁーい
Hooray...
THAT'S BECAUSE ...

...SUCH WORRIES WILL SOON CEASE TO MATTER.
THEY WILL BECOME UNIMPORTANT.

WHAA...
?
WELL, IN A WAY, THEY'RE ALREADY NOT THAT IMPORTANT...
HARU-TORA?

WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING OUT HERE?
TOJI?
AGH! CRAP!
IT'S THAT LATE AL-READY?
OH...

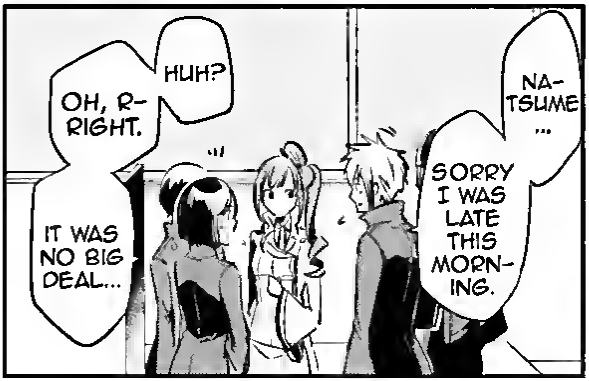
STARE...
TOJI?
THIS IS THAT THIRD YEAR I TOLD YOU ABOUT.
SENIOR, THIS IS--
TOJI ATO.
HUH? YOU KNOW HIM?
YO.
I'M ATO, FROM THE SECOND YEAR CLASS.
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M SUZU.
SHE TOLD HIM HER NAME?!
BONG!
STARE...
GLANCE
WHAT THE...?! BUT...BUT WHY?!
YOU WOULDN'T TELL ME FOR AGES, BUT YOU TELL HIM JUST LIKE THAT?!
AND WHAT'S WITH "SUZU"?
YOU SKIPPED THE LAST-NAME-BASIS AND WENT STRAIGHT TO FIRST ?!

HANG ON!
HOW COME YOU'RE COMPARING HIS LOOKS TO MINE NOW?!
YOU'RE QUITE HANDSOME.
I NEVER SAID ANY SUCH HORRID THING.
YOU'RE ALREADY HORRID!
QUIT IT, HARUTORA.
YOU'RE NOT HURTING ANYBODY BUT YOURSELF.
DAMMIT, TOJI, WHY'RE YOU SIDING WITH HER?!
NOW THEN, HANDSOME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN HEARING FROM THIS UNCOUTH FRIEND OF YOURS...
...BUT IT WAS ALL LIES.
DUDE, YOU'RE JUST MAKING ME SOUND MORE BELIEVABLE!
Grahh!!
I SEE.
YOU'RE MORE OR LESS HOW I IMAGINED YOU.
OR PERHAPS EVEN BETTER THAN I IMAGINED?
I GUESS I'VE STILL GOT IT, EVEN HERE AT ONMYO PREP.
TOJI?
YOU'RE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS, ARE YOU?

...
YOU'RE MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN I THOUGHT, BUT...
MUTTER
...YOU SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
...
I'LL BE GOING, THEN.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
NEVER YOU MIND.
THERE IS NO DEEP MEANING TO IT.
SHFF
SENIOR?
KYAHH !!
WHAT ARE YOU, SOME DIRTY OLD MAN?!
FLINCH

SOME-THING ABOUT HER BUGS ME, BUT...
YEAH ...
ISN'T SHE A WEIRDO ?
SEE?
ふ
Oof..
WAVE WAVE
ふらふら
OUR FIRST CLASS IS WITH MR. OTOMO.
HE'LL GIVE US A HARD TIME IF WE'RE LATE AGAIN.
LET'S GO, HARU-TORA.
AW, FORGET IT.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

HARU-TORA! TOJI!
...
CHATTER
CHATTER...


HUH?
OH, R-RIGHT.
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL...
NA-TSUME ...
SORRY I WAS LATE THIS MORN-ING.

GASP! ...

OKAY... THAT WASN'T TOO BAD.
...

...AND TRY TO START OVER WITHOUT MAKING THINGS ANY MORE AWKWARD FOR NATSUME.
RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO FORGET ABOUT MYSELF...

BE-SIDES...

...WE'VE GOT OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
DID YOU GUYS NOTICE, TOO?
THE ATMO-SPHERE IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING FEELS DIFFERENT, TOO.
AND THE VOICE CHECK AND AURA CHECK WERE SUPER THOROUGH.
IT'S ALPHA AND OMEGA.
THEY FELT DIFFERENT FROM USUAL, SOME-HOW.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
THEY KEEP PATROLLING AROUND LIKE THEY'RE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SOME-THING, BUT...
...WHEN YOU ASK WHY, THEY CLAM RIGHT UP AND WON'T SAY.
WITH THE TEACHERS ON EDGE AND ALL.

THE BARRIER AROUND THE SCHOOL BUILDING HAS BEEN REIN-FORCED.
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT YESTER-DAY.
SETTING UP A BARRIER OF THIS SCOPE OVERNIGHT... THEY'RE WORKING MUCH TOO FAST.
PLUS, YESTERDAY, GRAND-MOTHER...
...I MEAN, THE PRINCIPAL DIDN'T COME HOME.
I THINK SHE WAS AT SCHOOL ALL NIGHT.
DOESN'T SHE DO THAT A LOT?
EVERY SO OFTEN, BUT...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
IT'S JUST, THIS TIME, SHE DIDN'T EVEN ANSWER THE TEXT I SENT THIS MORNING.
SHE USUALLY TEXTS ME BACK RIGHT AWAY, BUT...
I SEE.
SO, IN OTHER WORDS, THE PRINCIPAL IS BUSY RIGHT NOW, TOO.

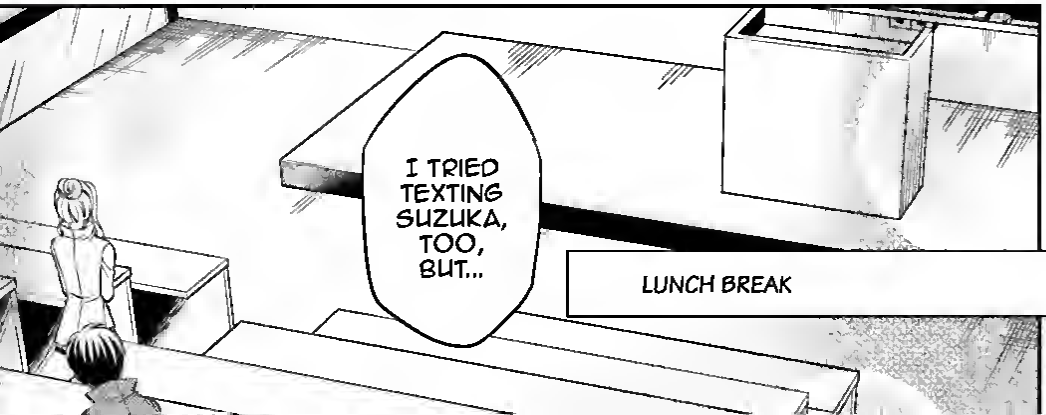
MAYBE THEY'RE GETTING READY FOR SOMETHING?
LIKE A FIRE DRILL, OR--
HMPH.
EVEN IF IT'S AN EMERGENCY DRILL...
...I SOMEHOW DOUBT THAT IT'S FOR A FIRE.
...
CHATTER
HARUTORA.
GO GET YOUR STAFF FROM THE LOCKER ROOM DOWNSTAIRS.
YOU SHOULD KEEP IT WITH YOU FOR TODAY.
CHATTER
Y-YEAH.
I ALWAYS CARRY IT WITH ME.
NATSUME?
DO YOU HAVE YUKIKAZE'S TALISMAN WITH YOU?
CHATTER
BUT IT'S BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS.
AT LEAST IT'LL MAKE US FEEL BETTER.
NOT A CLUE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
TOJI, WAIT.
GOT IT.

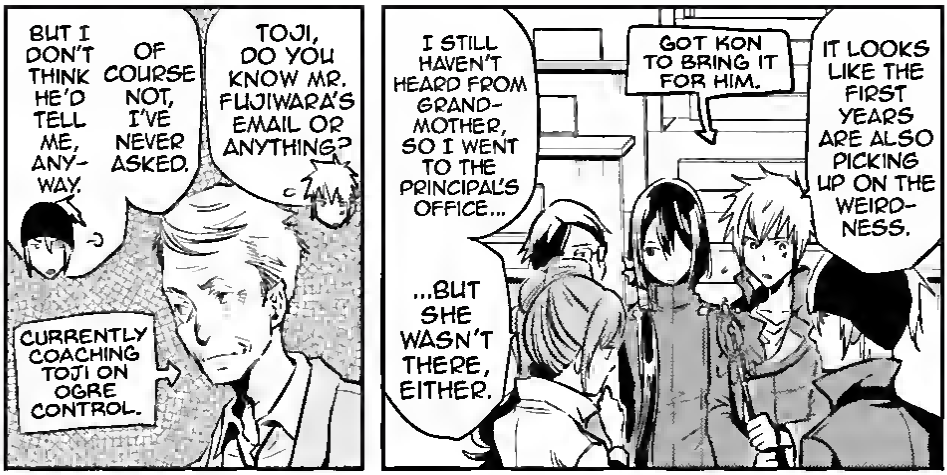
ANYWAY, THIS BUILDING IS WELL EQUIPPED AND STAFFED WITH PROS.
FROM A MAGICAL STANDPOINT, IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE CITY.
THEN SURELY WE DON'T HAVE TO BE SO CAREFUL ...
YOU'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE THAT WAY, TENMA.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT TRIAL RUNS ARE FOR, TO PREPARE US FOR THE REAL THING.
IF YOU DON'T PUT YOUR ALL INTO THE TRIAL RUN, IT'S POINTLESS.
PAT
OKAY, I'M GOING DOWNSTAIRS--
CLATTER
CLASS WILL BEGIN.
EVERYONE, TAKE YOUR SEATS.
HUH? PROFESSOR ...
IS MR. OTOMO NOT TEACHING TODAY --
STARE

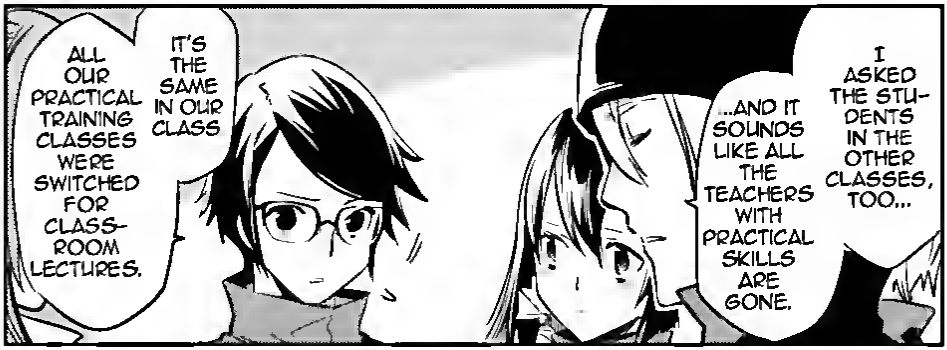
CHATTER...
.....

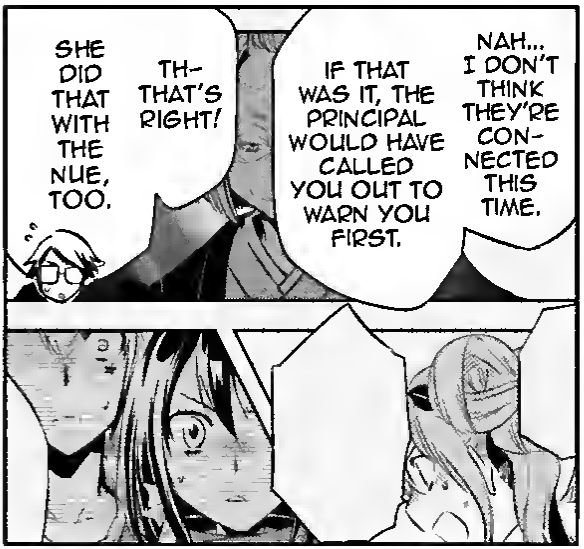
NOW THEN, KINDLY TAKE YOUR SEATS.
SHFF
MR. OTOMO WAS CALLED AWAY ON URGENT BUSI-NESS.

.....
SHUDDER...
THIS...
...IS REALLY SERIOUS, WHATEVER IT IS.


I TRIED TEXTING SUZUKA, TOO, BUT...
LUNCH BREAK


TOJI, DO YOU KNOW MR. FUJIWARA'S EMAIL OR ANYTHING?
OF COURSE NOT, I'VE NEVER ASKED.
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D TELL ME, ANY-WAY.
CURRENTLY COACHING TOJI ON OGRE CONTROL.
I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD FROM GRAND-MOTHER, SO I WENT TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...
...BUT SHE WASN'T THERE, EITHER.
GOT KON TO BRING IT FOR HIM.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE FIRST YEARS ARE ALSO PICKING UP ON THE WEIRD-NESS.


IT'S THE SAME IN OUR CLASS
ALL OUR PRACTICAL TRAINING CLASSES WERE SWITCHED FOR CLASS-ROOM LECTURES.
I ASKED THE STU-DENTS IN THE OTHER CLASSES, TOO...
...AND IT SOUNDS LIKE ALL THE TEACHERS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS ARE GONE.


TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
SHE DID THAT WITH THE NUE, TOO.
IF THAT WAS IT, THE PRINCIPAL WOULD HAVE CALLED YOU OUT TO WARN YOU FIRST.
NAH... I DON'T THINK THEY'RE CON-NECTED THIS TIME.

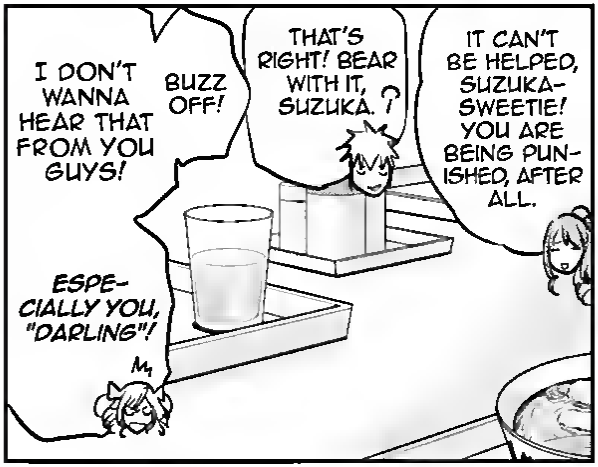
TO-JI?
DO YOU THINK THIS HAS SOME-THING TO DO WITH ME, AFTER ALL?
THE TWIN HORN SYNDI-CATE?

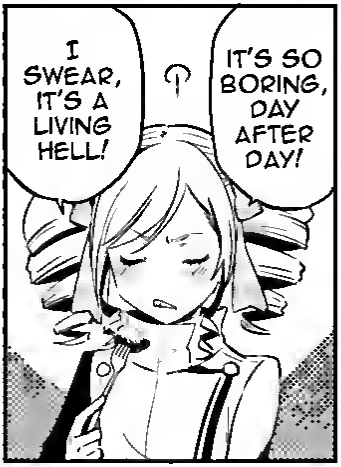
I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL.
IT REALLY SUCKS WHEN SOMEONE IS DRAGGED INTO A DANGEROUS SITUATION BECAUSE OF YOU.
!
NATSU-ME.
BUT...
...IF ONMYO PREP IS UNDER ATTACK, THEY CAN'T BE AFTER ANYTHING BUT ME--
BUT OUR TEACHERS MUST KNOW THAT AND WILL TAKE CARE OF IT.
THEY MUST BE WORRYING ABOUT EVERY-ONE'S SAFETY.
IT'S NO GOOD TO OVER-RELY ON THEM, BUT...
...I THINK IT'S OKAY TO TRUST IN THEM.
HARU-TORA...
Well...
SO, WE GO TO CLASS AS USUAL WHILE STAYING ALERT, HUH?
AND KEEP IN MIND THE PRINCIPAL ISN'T SURE ABOUT THIS EITHER.
YEAH... MAYBE SHE WAS WARNED BY A BAD OMEN OR SOMETHING.
BUT.. SHE'S A FIRST-RATE ASTROL-OGER, ISN'T SHE?
IN THAT CASE, MAYBE SOME-THING REALLY IS GONNA HAPPEN --
!
GR-RR-RR-RING!

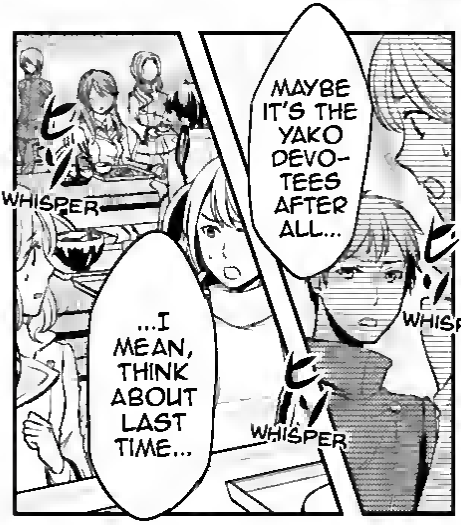
IT'S A TEXT FROM SUZUKA!
WHAT IS IT?
OH...
IT JUST SAYS, "WHAT R U DOING?!"
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALREADY IN THE CAFE-TERIA.
EVER SINCE THE TRAINING CAMP, SHE KEEPS COMING UP WITH EX-CUSES TO EAT WITH US.
Ha-ha...
SHE ALWAYS PRETENDS SHE DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO, BUT...
HEE HEE
IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S GETTING HUNGRY, HUH?
WE SHOULD GO TO LUNCH FOR NOW, TOO.
食堂
CAFETERIA

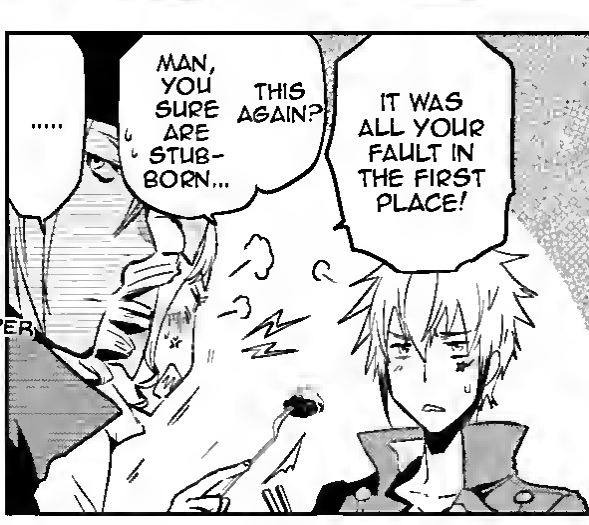
CHATTER
CHATTER
OH! DARLING!
TAP
TAP
GOSH, YOU'RE SO LATE!
TAP
TAP
CHAT-TER
CHATTER
WHAT? HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP UP THIS ACT?
I HAVE MY POSI-TION TO THINK OF!
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY...
MUTTER
SERIOUSLY, YOU TOOK FOREVER! WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING, YOU JACKASS?!
SO...
SHUT UP! NOBODY ASKED YOU!
HISSS!
RIGHT?
YEAH, HARU-TORA!
BESIDES, IT'S ADOR-ABLE, SO IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?

HOW'S IT GOING FOR THE FIRST YEARS?
FINE.
ABOUT THE SAME AS FOR YOU SECOND YEARS.
SO, NO PRACTICAL LESSONS, BUT THE SAME LECTURES AS ALWAYS?
WELL, I GUESS FIRST YEARS MOSTLY JUST GET LECTURES.
CHATTER
CHATTER


IT CAN'T BE HELPED, SUZUKA-SWEETIE! YOU ARE BEING PUNISHED, AFTER ALL.
THAT'S RIGHT! BEAR WITH IT, SUZUKA.
BUZZ OFF!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT FROM YOU GUYS!
ESPECIALLY YOU, "DARLING"!


IT'S SO BORING, DAY AFTER DAY!
I SWEAR, IT'S A LIVING HELL!


MAYBE IT'S THE YAKO DEVOTEES AFTER ALL...
...I MEAN, THINK ABOUT LAST TIME...
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER

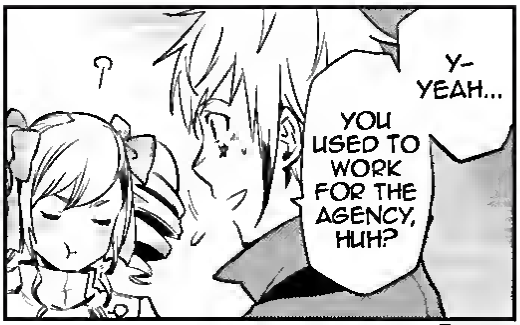

IT WAS ALL YOUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
THIS AGAIN?
MAN, YOU SURE ARE STUBBORN...
.....

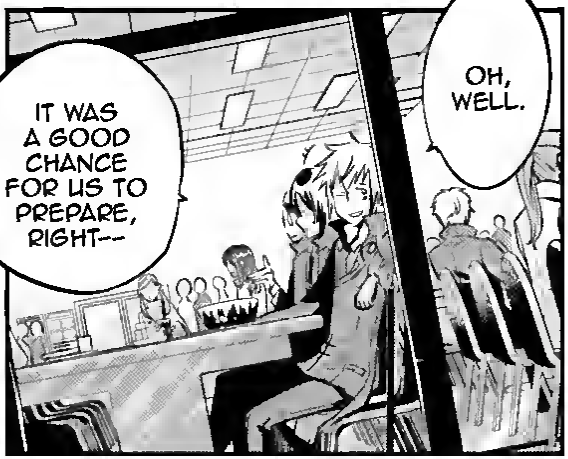
FLINCH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHISPER
WHISPER
.....
...OKAY.
HUH?
BA-DUMP
CLATTER!
?
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP!
HEY! BIG NEWS, EVERY-BODY!
...SHE KIND OF SOUNDED LIKE HER.
LIKE HO-KUTO'S VOICE...
JUST NOW ...
...THEIR ACTUAL VOICES ARE TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT, BUT...

CHATTER CHATTER!
IT SOUNDS LIKE...
...THE ONMYO AGENCY JUST GOT ATTACKED BY A MYSTERIOUS ONMYOJI!
?!
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT? DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
WAIT! HE ISN'T MAKING IT UP!
CLATTER!
I GOT A TEXT FROM MY BROTHER WHO WORKS THERE! HE SAYS THE EXORCISM BUREAU FORCES HAVE JOINED THE BATTLE!
IT'S TRUE!
CHATTER
HEY, WHAT THE HELL?
THAT'S CRAZY TALK, DUDE!
CHATTER
I GOT A TEXT, TOO!
IT SAYS THINGS ARE BAD AT THE AGENCY OFFICES!
A BUNCH OF THE DIVINE GENERALS ARE ON THE SCENE ...
...RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A HUGE STRUGGLE

NO WAY...
SO THAT'S IT...?
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
...I GUESS IT REALLY IS JUST A DRILL, AFTER ALL.
OH WELL ...
OH-- SORRY!
THAT WAS A BIT RUDE.
...I FEEL RE-LIEVED.
PHEW
S-SOME-HOW...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IDIOT IS PULLING THIS, BUT...
WE'RE PROB-ABLY FINE, RIGHT?
Dam what a hore
IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM, AFTER ALL.
WELL, YEAH, BUT THE AGENCY OFFICES ARE OVER IN AKIBA.
C'MON, TOJI, THIS IS SERIOUS, ISN'T IT?
WHICH MEANS THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH HARM.
...IT PROVES THE AGENCY HAD TIME TO PREPARE FOR THIS IN ADVANCE, JUST LIKE US.
IF A BUNCH OF THE DIVINE GENERALS ARE THERE...

WELL THEN...
WOBBLE
HA HA...


Y-YEAH...
YOU USED TO WORK FOR THE AGENCY, HUH?


IT WAS A GOOD CHANCE FOR US TO PREPARE, RIGHT--
OH, WELL.

...CAR...
A CAR?

SSSH...
IT'S BLACK.
I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE--
TNK
CLICK
SHUDDER...
NO WAY.
IT'S--
SHIT...

CLACK!

CLACK!

END OF CHAPTER 44

TOKYO RAVENS

DOMAN...
...ASHIYA !!
HUH?
A GEEZER IN A BLACK LIMO...
...HE SAID HIS NAME WAS DOMAN ASHIYA!!
!!
CLATTER
IT'S THAT GUY WE MET AFTER THE NUE!
?!
NA-TSUME ?
CLATTER

B-BUT WHY IS HE AT ONMYO PREP?
OF COURSE NOT, YOU IDIOT!
IS HE A FRIEND OF THE PRINCIPAL'S?
IF THEY WERE FRIENDS, THEY'D HAVE--
BUSTLE
WAIT, YOU MEAN FROM THE "D" INVESTIGATIONS?!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
KURAHASHI, WAIT!
THAT'S ...!
GRANDMOTHER?!

CHAPTER 45
ATTACK
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...MASTER DOMA.

YOU MUST BE LADY KURA-HASHI.
SINCE YOU SAY IT'S "BEEN A WHILE," I TAKE IT WE'VE MET BEFORE?
YES.
WHEN I WAS ONLY BUT A CHILD.
I SEE, I SEE. NOW I REMEM-BER.
THE KURAHASHI PRIESTESS WHO WAS WITH YAKO.
SO THAT LITTLE GIRL ...
GREW UP TO BE THE FAMOUS KURAHASHI ASTROL-OGER, EH?
HEH HEH...
PEOPLE ARE SUCH UNPREDICT-ABLE CREATURES, AREN'T THEY?
AND YAKO WAS MORE SO THAN ANYONE.
WASN'T HE?
I'VE HAD A LONG TIME TO OBSERVE PEOPLE, BUT...
...IT'S STILL HARD TO WORK OUT WHAT HE MEANT TO ACCOM-PLISH.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M SO INTER-ESTED...
...IN SEEING THE VARIOUS FATES OF PEOPLE.

...ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A "FUTURE," AS YOU'D SEE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU LOOKED.
ALL THE STUDENTS ENROLLED AT OUR SCHOOL...
...MIGHT I PREVAIL UPON YOU TO LEAVE THESE PREMISES?
IF AT ALL POSSIBLE ...
MASTER...
AYE. YOUR PRIDE IS AS LOFTY AS THIS SCHOOL BUILDING.
YOU HAVE A POINT, BUT OUR FLEDGLINGS HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO SPROUT FEATHERS.
THEY WOULD FIND IT HARD TO WITHSTAND THE WINGBEATS OF A PHOENIX SUCH AS YOURSELF.
WHY, IN THAT CASE, MEETING A FELLOW LIKE ME IN PERSON SHOULD BE...
...A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ANYONE WISHING TO BECOME AN ONMYOJI, YES?
IN THAT CASE, I'D BEST FINISH MY BUSINESS HERE AND TAKE MY LEAVE.
THAT'S A SHAME.

YAKO'S RAVEN'S COAT...
I REQUIRE IT FOR MY CEREMONY.
YOU WILL LEND IT TO ME, WON'T YOU?
...THE RAVEN'S COAT IS NOT CURRENTLY AT OUR SCHOOL
I'M SORRY, MASTER, BUT...
OHH?
LOVELY.
THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEARCH FOR IT, AS I ORIGINALLY INTENDED.
Heh heh
MY DEAR ASTROLOGER...
THIS IS IN EXTREMELY BAD FORM, SIR!
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, RESTRAIN YOURSELF!
NO!
TO DO SO WOULD BE UNREASONABLE--
MASTER...!

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SAY SUCH THINGS TO THAT ONE-LEGGED LAD UNDER YOUR COMMAND.
IN OUR FIELD...
..."FORM" IS JUST ANOTHER WORD FOR "TECHNIQUE."
SHFF...
POWER WAS PRO-DUCED BY THE BOND...
...BETWEEN HUMANS AND GODS ONCE. THOUGH NOW SIMPLY BETWEEN HUMANS IN MODERN TIMES.
TO MAKE GOOD USE OF THAT POWER, WE CREATE TECHNIQUES, ETIQUETTE AND CEREMONY... BASICALLY, OUR "FORMS."
AND ANY "FORM" THAT IS ONLY FOR APPEARANCES' SAKE IS NO MORE THAN AN EMPTY PLEA.
FAR BETTER... TO BE IN BAD FORM THEN.
TWITCH
CLANG
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING HEMMED INTO ANY FORM HERE.

SKKKRT
NGH!
VOOOM!
BA-DOOSH!

BA-DOOSH!

SKKKRT
NGH!
Ah!
VOOOM!!

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
FAMIL-IARS?!
ALL OF THEM ...?!
I WON'T MEDDLE WITH YOUR PRECIOUS FLEDGLINGS.
AND IF ANY OF THEIR WINGS BREAK UNDER SUCH PRESSURE AS THIS...
WHOOSH!
...THEN YOU WILL HAVE ONLY DONE YOUR DUTY AS A LEADER, IN BREAKING THEM BEFORE THEY TOOK FLIGHT IN FOLLY.
HE'S HERE!
STAFF ROOM
BEGIN GUIDING THE STUDENTS IMMEDIATELY, ACCORDING TO THIS MORNING'S DIRECTIVE!
EVACUATE ALL STUDENTS THROUGH THE BACK ENTRANCE!

MR. FUJIWARA! OUTSIDE!
THE TEAM FROM THE MEGURO BRANCH OFFICE SHOULD BE--
TMP TMP
THE ATTACK ON THE AGENCY OFFICES MAY HAVE BEEN A DIVERSION!
CONTACT THE AGENCY AND THE EXORCISM BUREAU, QUICKLY!
WHOOSH!
!!
TAKE THE STUDENTS TO THE UNDERGROUND PRACTICE AREA, NOW!
THIS IS TURNING INTO A SIEGE!
THEY'RE ALREADY CIRCLING AROUND TO THE BACK ENTRANCE!
THEIR NUMBERS ARE INCREDIBLE!
ARE THOSE HIS FAMILIARS ...?!
BUSTLE
OUR ENEMIES WILL ATTACK ANY MINUTE!
HURRY!
BUSTLE

N-NO, SIR!
MR. OTOMO HASN'T BEEN IN TODAY...
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM OTOMO YET?
Oh!
YOU...
.....
I SEE...
Hmph!
ALL WE CAN DO FOR NOW...IS FOCUS ON WHAT'S AT HAND!
CHATTER
WHA...
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!
EEEK!
食堂
CAFETERIA

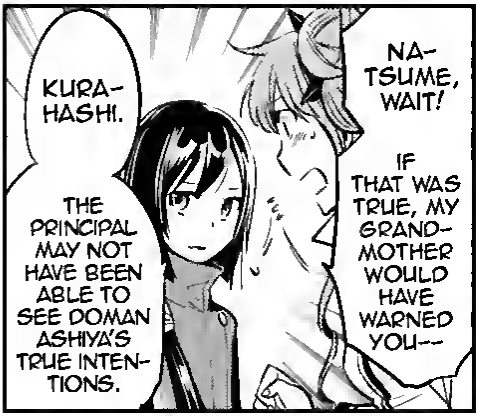
WHOOSH!
Eeek!
Wahh!
MASTER HARUTORA!
ARE THEY M-MONSTERS?!
THEY'RE FAMILIARS!
DASH
DASH
Eeek!
WAUGHH!
Whoa!
DO NOT ATTACK THEM!
THE BARRIER AROUND THE SCHOOL IS WORKING!
IF YOU ATTACK FROM INSIDE, YOU'LL ONLY DAMAGE THE BARRIER!

Eeek!
IS THIS RELATED TO THAT ?!
CHATTER
THE AGENCY OFFICES WERE UNDER ATTACK, RIGHT ?
CHATTER
Eeek!
DAMMIT! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
CHATTER
Wahh!
Wahh!
JINGLE
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE THEY CAN'T GET IN HERE.
WAIT, PLEASE!
DON'T DO ANYTHING CRAZY, KON.
M-M-MASTER HARUTORA, WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?
GLANCE
IT CAN'T BE--
DAMMIT, WHAT'S HE AFTER?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
EVERYONE, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
.....

CHATTER
ONMYO PREP IS BEING ATTACKED AS WE SPEAK BY AN UNIDENTIFIED ONMYOJI!
WE MUST BEGIN EVACUATING IMMEDIATELY!
ALL STUDENTS, REPORT AT ONCE TO THE PRACTICE AREA!
CHATTER
BUT WE'LL BE TRAPPED THERE!
I GET IT! THE BARRIER AROUND THE ARENA ...
BUSTLE
DON'T GET ALL PANICKY, FOUR-EYES
W-WE CAN'T GET OUTSIDE?
WE'RE SURROUNDED, THERE'S NOWHERE TO GET OUT.
BUSTLE
W-WE SHOULD GET MOVING, TOO!
Wahh!
I'M SURE THEY'VE ALREADY CONTACTED THE ONMYO AGENCY AND THE EXORCISM BUREAU.
THEY'RE PROBABLY PLANNING TO SETTLE IN FOR A SIEGE AND WAIT FOR AID.
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
DAMN, THINGS ARE REALLY HEATING UP.
THOSE GUYS HAVE THEIR OWN ATTACK TO DEAL WITH, THOUGH.

NATSU-ME?
NO. I CAN'T GO.
HE'S RIGHT. QUICK--
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
IT'S NO GOOD ...
IF I EVACUATE TO THE SAME PLACE AS ALL OF YOU...
...THAT PLACE IS LIKELY TO BECOME A TARGET.
IF ONMYO PREP AND THE ONMYO AGENCY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AT THE EXACT SAME TIME...
...THOSE ATTACKS CAN'T BE UNRELATED.
AND IT NATURALLY FOLLOWS THAT IT'S THE WORK OF A REPEAT OFFENDER.
W-WHAT DO YOU...
DON'T YOU GET IT?

DOMAN ASHIYA, AKA "D"...
...HAS TIES TO THE TWIN HORN SYNDICATE.
THEREFORE, THERE'S A HIGH CHANCE THAT THESE ATTACKS ...
...ARE THE WORK OF THE TWIN HORN SYNDICATE...THE YAKO DEVOTEES.


NATSUME, WAIT!
IF THAT WAS TRUE, MY GRANDMOTHER WOULD HAVE WARNED YOU--
KURAHASHI.
THE PRINCIPAL MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE DOMAN ASHIYA'S TRUE INTENTIONS.

WHICH MEANS ...
...THEY'RE AFTER ME.

AS LONG AS THERE'S EVEN A TINY CHANCE OF THAT, I CAN'T BE TOO OPTIMISTIC.
AND I CAN'T EXPOSE EVERYONE TO DANGER BY DOING SOMETHING FOOLISH.
.....
...FINE.
BUT, NATSUME...

YOU CAN'T TELL US TO LET YOU RUN OFF ALONE.
Hmph!
...DO WHAT YOU WANT.
.....
YEAH. BESIDES, IF YOU LEFT WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS, YOU'D HAVE NOBODY TO TALK TO.
WHAT?! DON'T BE AN IDIOT!
EVEN IF I EVACUATED WITH THE SMALL FRIES, THEY'D JUST SOB ALL OVER ME! IT'D BE DEPRESSING!
BLEUGH!!
IF THE SEAL SITUATION GOT OUT, IT'D WRECK YOUR DIVINE GENERAL IMAGE, PRINCESS.
DON'T YOU START, BANDANA-BOY!
BESIDES, THOSE FAMILIARS ARE A MESS!
HE'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN TRYING!
FUME!

THANK YOU.
Grrr...
.....
I'M NOT...!
I T-TOLD YOU!
BLUUUSH
BUSTLE BUSTLE
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT, HUH?
BAH!
Hmph!

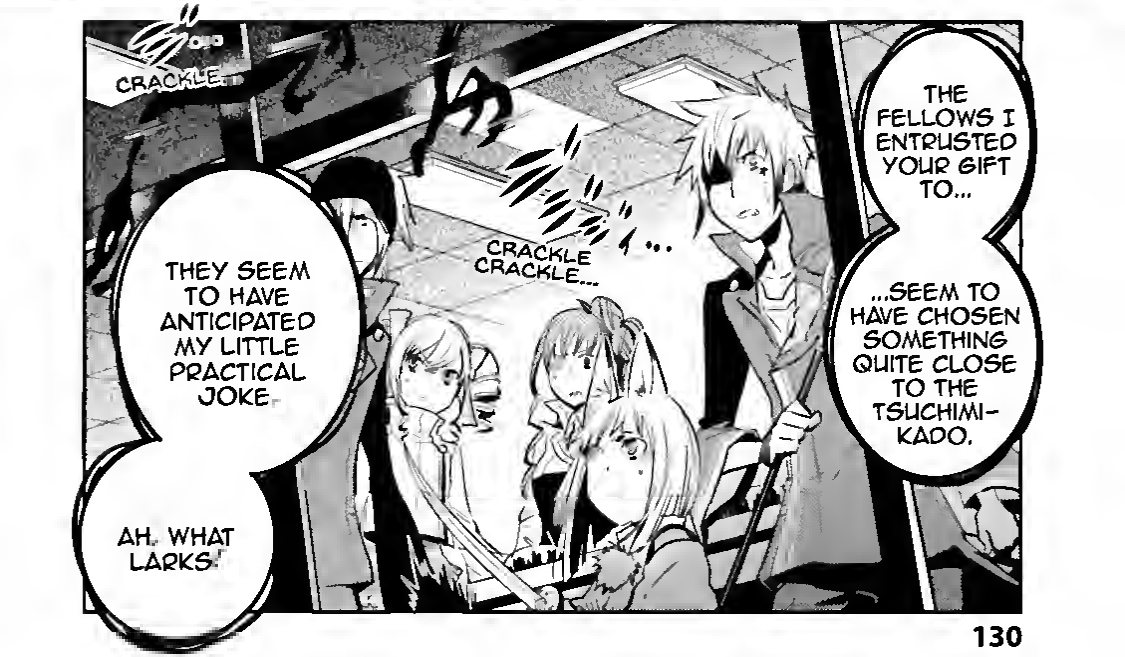
OKAY.
FIRST, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
KYOKO, SEND A SIMPLE FAMILIAR TO THE PRACTICE AREA.
WE HAVE TO GET WORD TO THE TEACHERS THAT WE'RE TAKING ALTER-NATIVE ACTION ---
MASTER HARU-TORA!
WHAM!
BZZZT!
!!
JINGLE
GAH?!
SHING!

BZZZT
OH HO!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.
BZZZT
CRACKLE
WE HAVEN'T CHATTED LIKE THIS...
...SINCE THE NIGHT OF THE NUE, YES?
WHY, YOU...!
CRACKLE
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR ALARMING YOU.
I GAVE ALL THAT ADVICE ABOUT BIDING ONE'S TIME... AND YET I'M THE ONE WHO'S MADE A MOVE.
FORGIVE ME.
W-WHAT THE HELL DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

HA.
IT'S A TRIFLING MATTER, REALLY.
ONCE I'VE FINISHED, I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
CRACKLE...
I WILL NOT MEDDLE WITH YOU YOUNG FOLK.
THIS ISSUE IS... SHALL WE SAY, "IRREGULAR."
...
WELL.
SINCE I'M HERE...
...PERHAPS I'LL SPARE A MOMENT...
...TO PLAY WITH YOU CHILDREN.
SMIRK

SHUDDER...
DON'T LET HIM GET TO YOU!
TH-THIS BUILDING IS PROTECTED BY A BARRIER!
MY GRANDMOTHER PREPARED IT, SO IT SHOULD BE FLAWLESS!
GLINT
AND THE DIVINE GENERALS WILL BE HERE TO HELP US SOON!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE THE REAL DOMAN ASHIYA OR NOT, BUT...
KYOKO...
...THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN WIN!
GOOD GRACIOUS ME.
WOULD I COME TO VISIT YOU...
CRACKLE...
...WITHOUT BRINGING GIFTS?

HEE HEE
THAT WOULD GO BEYOND POOR "FORM"...
...INTO SIMPLE BOORISH-NESS.
WHY, I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING SO FOOL-ISH.
I DO LIVE TO SURPRISE YOU DEAR CHILDREN ...
HEE!
BOOM!
WHAM!
AND... WHAT'S THIS?
CRACK!


CRACKLE
THE FELLOWS I ENTRUSTED YOUR GIFT TO...
CRACKLE CRACKLE...
...SEEM TO HAVE CHOSEN SOMETHING QUITE CLOSE TO THE TSUCHIMI-KADO.
THEY SEEM TO HAVE ANTICIPATED MY LITTLE PRACTICAL JOKE.
AH. WHAT LARKS.

...?!
WHAT IS IT YOU YOUNG FOLKS SAY?
STILL, THEY WILL NOT HAVE IT ALL THEIR WAY.
I'LL PROVIDE A FEW ANTICS OF MY OWN.
ORDER!
BLAM!
WHOA!
TEN-MA?!
SIZZLE

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
OOZE...
HOW ABOUT THAT?
FWOOM!
ZIP
A TALISMAN?!
GET DOWN!

FWOOM!
ZIP
A TALIS-MAN?!
GET DOWN!

BANG
BANG
BANG
OOZE...
BANG
BANG
BANG
HOW ABOUT THAT?

MOST BARRIERS ARE STABLE ON THE OUTSIDE...
...BUT...
CRACK
RIP...
...SHATTERING THEM FROM THE INSIDE IS QUITE SIMPLE.
CRACK!
CRACK...
CREAK...
CREAK...
ANCIENT INCANTATIONS AND MODERN SPELLS ALIKE...
KSHHH!

THE ...
...THE BARRIER!
NO...!
FWIP
DAM-MIT!
CRACK!
CRASH!
KSHHH-
CRACK CRACK
WHOOSH
KSHHH!
CRASH!
BOOM!

END OF CHAPTER 45

COME ALONG, THEN.

End of Chapter 45

TOKYO RAVENS

"D" IS AT ONMYO PREP?!
KAGAMI, ARE YOU WORKING ALONE?
I SEE... SO KOGURE ISN'T WITH YOU.
AMAMI ASSUMED IT WAS A DIVERSION.
SCREECH!
THEN WHY DIDN'T WE SEND ANY OF OUR--
...!
BEEP!
GOT IT?
COME BACK TO THE AGENCY OFFICES FOR NOW.
OH, WELL. WE'RE REORGA-NIZING OUR APPROACH.

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE ONMYO PREP?!
JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO HAVE MY FIRST OGRE IN AGES...
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO SHIBUYA FROM HERE!
WHACK!
THAT BAS-TARD!
BZZ...
CHAK
DAM-MIT!
PLUS, MY OTHER PREY IS STILL THERE--
OTO-MO...

CHAPTER 46
BREAKOUT

CRASH!
KSSH KSSH
VOOOM!
HOW DID YOU...
WELL, THEN.
I'LL JUST LET MYSELF IN.
SKKKRT
BZZT!
HOLD HIM BACK!
ALPHA! OMEGA!
TECHNIQUE RELEASE!

CRACKLE CRACKLE...
WE HEAR...
...AND OBEY, MISTRESS.
CRACKLE CRACKLE...
CRASH!
TAP TAP
ARMORED FAMILIARS, EH? SO THE APPEARANCE OF GUARDIAN STATUES ... ...WAS CAMOUFLAGE, I SEE.
HEH.
HEH...

WHOOOM!
BZZ
CRACKLE CRACKLE
BAM!
CRASH!
WHOOSH
HA!

BWOOOM
CRUNCH!
CRASH!
BASH!
STARE
DID YAKO MAKE THEM, PERHAPS?
THE SAME METHOD USED IN AN ARMORED DEMON SOLDIER.
THOSE EFFI-GIES...
THEY HAVE BARRIER CHARMS ENGRAVED WITHIN.
SHFF
PRINCI-PAL!
MASTER! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU!
THE RAVEN'S COAT IS NOT--
WELL, CONSIDER-ING THE HISTORY OF THIS PLACE, IT SEEMS LIKELY.
HEH ...

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
!
-SHFF
WHISPER
HOLDING HIM BACK, HUH? LEAVE IT TO US!
I LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS
BUT PLEASE, DON'T GET YOUR-SELVES KILLED.
TAP
TAP
TAP
...
...CAN YOU REALLY KEEP ME ENTER-TAINED?
YOU DO LOOK FAIRLY CAPABLE, BUT...
QUITE SO.
SO YOU'RE "MASTER DOMA"?
DOMAN ASHIYA...

WHERE IS HE ...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONE-LEGGED LAD?
WHY HASN'T HE SHOWN UP?
...I'LL DO THE VERY BEST I CAN!
FLICK
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT...
SHFF
?!
AH, WELL...
SHFF ...
I HAVE OTHER THINGS TO LOOK FOR JUST NOW.
GASP
COME!
FLUTTER

YOU LOT, SEARCH FOR THE RAVEN'S COAT.
I'M...
...GOING TO HAVE A BIT OF FUN.
食堂
CAFETERIA
VOOOM!
BAM!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
GUH?!

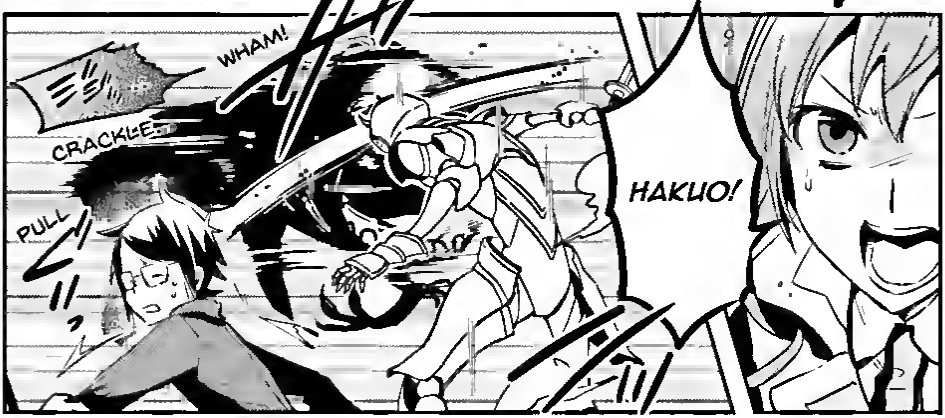
BAM!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
GUH?!

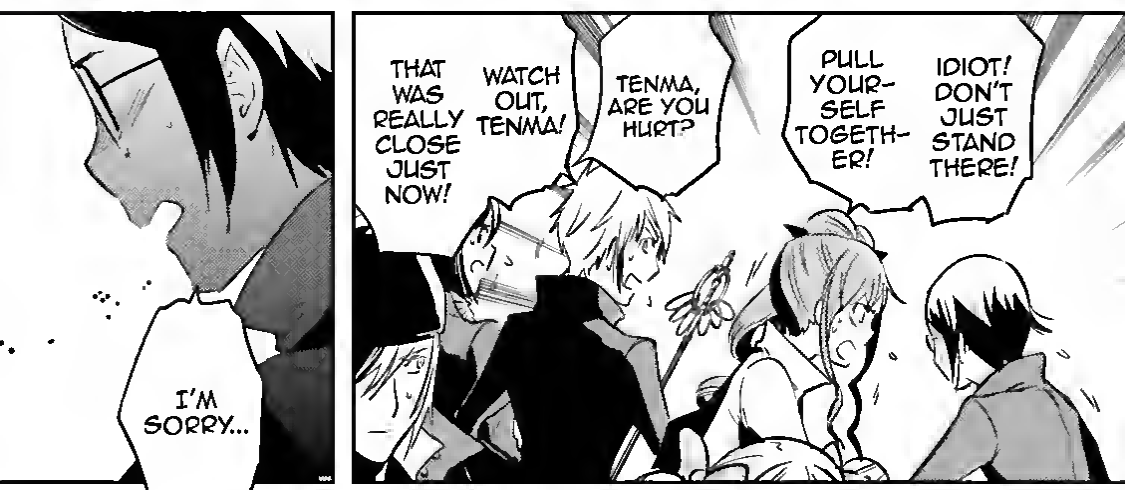
YOU LOT, SEARCH FOR THE RAVEN'S COAT.
I'M...
...GOING TO HAVE A BIT OF FUN.
食堂
CAFETERIA
VOOOM!
BAM

WHOOM
GUH ...?!
WHOOSH!
CRUNCH
BAM
BOOM!
YOU RUFFI-AN!
CRACKLE
KRNCH
CLATTER
TAKE THIS!

FLUTTER
WHOOMP!
NOT SO FAST! THEY'RE STILL COMING!
EVERY-BODY, GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOW AND FORM A CIRCLE!
WHOOSH!
W-WE DID IT!
FWOOSH!
TENMA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

AH...
CRASH!


WHAM!
CRACKLE!
PULL
HAKUO!

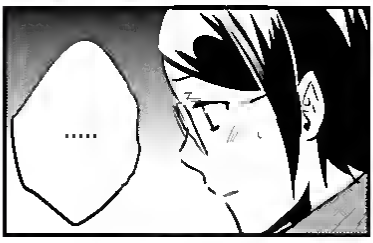

I'M SORRY...
THAT WAS REALLY CLOSE JUST NOW!
WATCH OUT, TENMA!
TENMA, ARE YOU HURT?
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
IDIOT! DON'T JUST STAND THERE!

I'M SORRY.
I'M SO SORRY...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
THE BARRIER...
VOOOM!
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
WHAT?!
TEN-MA...
HOW SPECIAL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?
HUH?
THAT WAS THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK.
YOU GETTING PICKED TO BE HIS PAWN WAS NOTHING BUT A COIN-CIDENCE!

THEY PROBABLY JUST SET THEIR TRAP ON YOU BECAUSE THEY HAPPENED TO BUMP INTO YOU!
THEY'RE AFTER SOME-BODY ELSE, NOT YOU.
YOU WERE JUST A BONUS.
HON-ESTLY, YOU'RE THINKING WAY TOO MUCH OF YOUR-SELF.
B-BUT...
ANY-HOW, OUR ENEMY IS "D" RIGHT?
EVEN IF HE DID TARGET YOU, WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU COULD'VE DONE ABOUT IT?
SO GIVE ME A BREAK WITH YOUR DELUSIONAL LITTLE PITY PARTY.
ALL RIGHT? NOW SHUT UP AND STAND BACK, FOUR-EYES, OR YOU'LL JUST GET IN OUR WAY.
.....
SHE'S GOT YOU THERE.
NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD REALIZE THEY WERE BEING TRICKED BY DOMAN ASHIYA.
I'M NOT EVEN CON-FIDENT THAT I WOULD.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

WE ALL FAILED TO SPOT HIS TRAP, JUST LIKE YOU.
SO DID ALPHA AND THE OTHERS.
OUR ENEMY IS JUST THAT GOOD.
NO KIDDING.
WE'RE USUALLY THE ONES WHO CAUSE TROUBLE.
BUT YOU STILL HANG OUT WITH US, WITHOUT EVER COMPLAINING.

WE'RE JUST STUDENTS, AFTER ALL.
WE'RE ALL STILL BEGINNERS AT THIS.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOTTA WORK TOGETHER.
AM I WRONG, TENMA?
HARUTORA...


.....

I'M SORRY ...

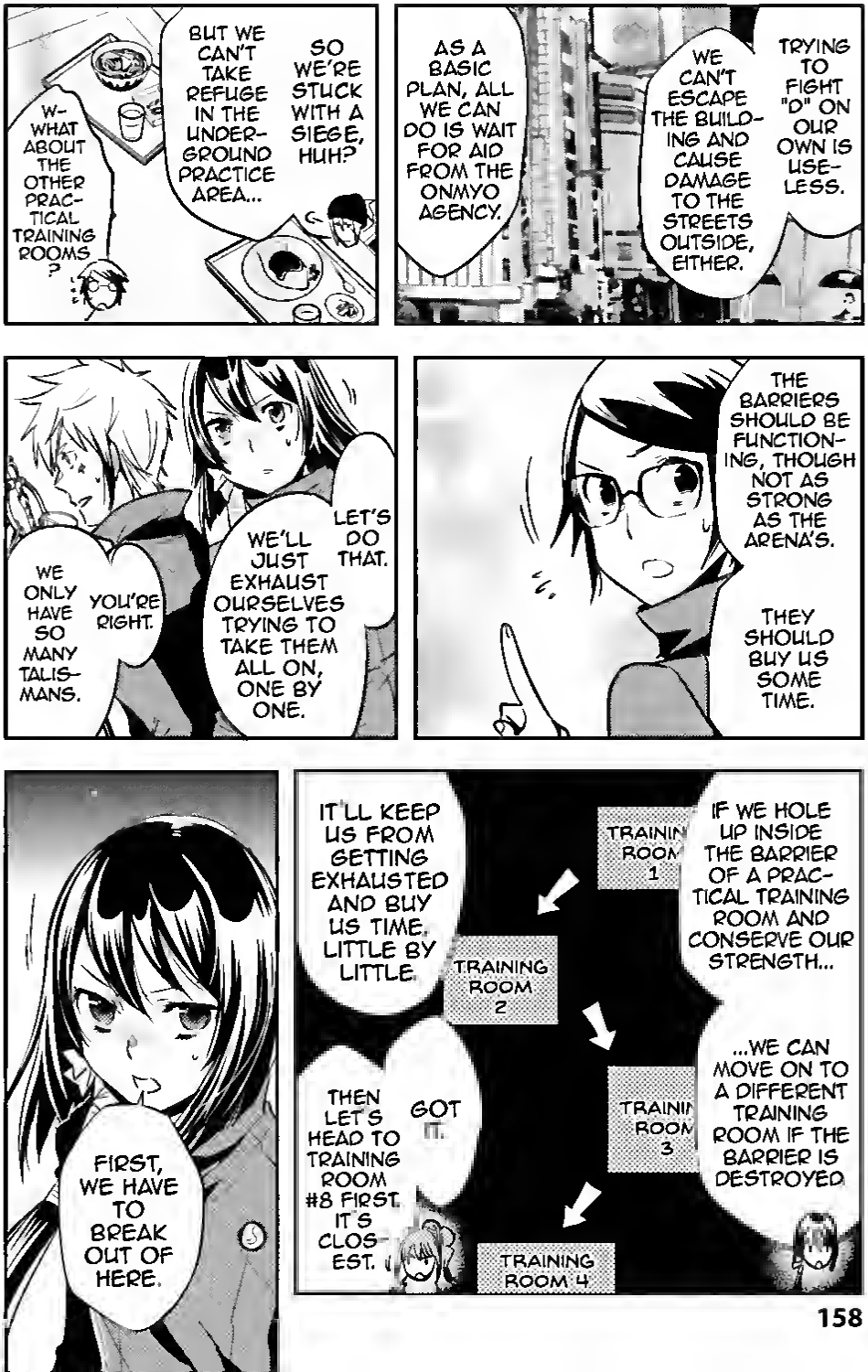
CRASH!
EXACTLY.
NOW ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT.
YOU CAN GET ALL SAD AND INTROSPECTIVE LATER.
C'MON!
WHOOSH!
KSHHH!

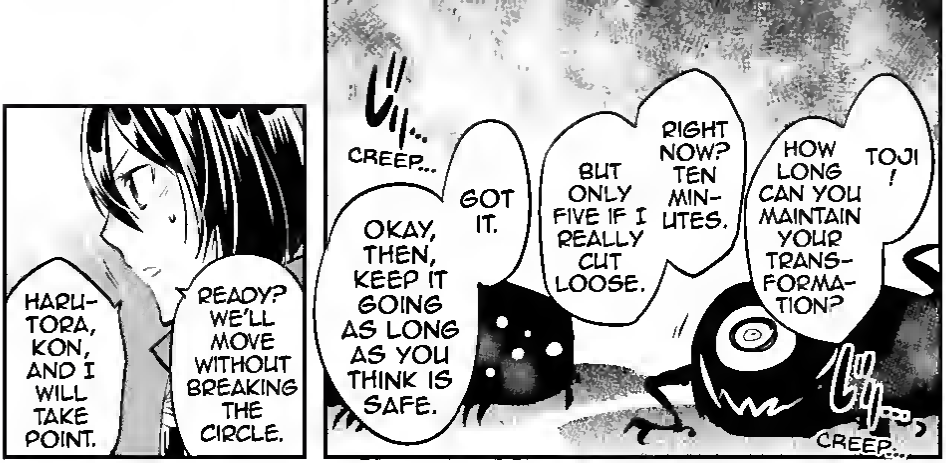
THANK YOU.
FWOOSH!
I'D BE FINE WITH MOWING DOWN EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM, BUT...
NATSU-ME. YOU DECIDE.
HUH?
SO? WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?
3. GLANCE
YOU'RE THE BOSS. IT'S YOUR CALL.
WHOOSH!
DAI-RENJI, YOU'RE COOL WITH THAT, RIGHT?
WHAT-EVER...
IF I DON'T LIKE IT, I'LL JUST LEAVE!
I CAN HANDLE THIS MUCH ON MY OWN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, LEAVE A FRIEND BEHIND! I'M NOT FRIENDS WITH YOU TWERPS!
NONE OF US WOULD LEAVE A FRIEND BEHIND!
IT'S OKAY, SUZUKA-SWEETIE!
QUIT PUTTING WORDS IN MY MOUTH!
HEY! DON'T GET COCKY ALL OF A SUDDEN, BANDANA-BOY!
OH, REALLY?
YOU'RE GONNA TAKE ON THIS SWARM OF FAMILIARS ALONE? THAT'S A RECIPE FOR TRAGEDY I'LL WEEP FOR YOU.

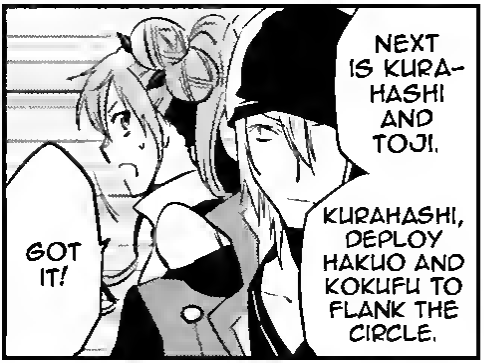
WE'VE ALL RELAXED A LITTLE, THANKS TO SUZUKA.
CHUCKLE
Gahh! Rrahh!
I guess you could call it a talent.
NA-TSUME.
IT'S UP TO YOU.
AS LONG AS WE CAN ALL LAUGH LIKE THIS, I FEEL LIKE WE'LL BE OKAY.
.....

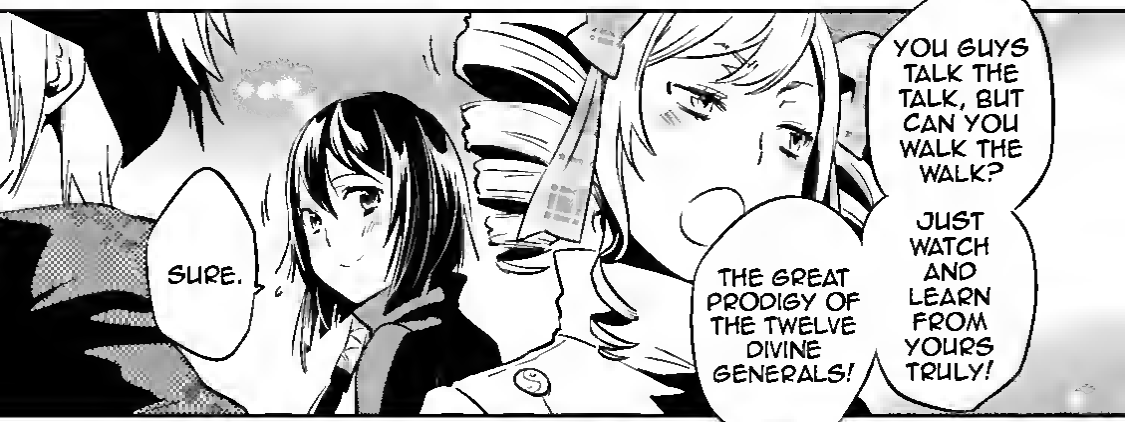
GYAAAUGHHH!
ARE YOU GUYS SERI-OUSLY MAKING FUN OF A DIVINE GENERAL?!
SMOOTH MOVE, IDIOTS!
YOU DO REALIZE THERE'S BARELY A DOZEN OF US IN THE COUNTRY AND I'M ONE?


W-WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER PRACTICAL TRAINING ROOMS?
BUT WE CAN'T TAKE REFUGE IN THE UNDERGROUND PRACTICE AREA...
SO WE'RE STUCK WITH A SIEGE, HUH?
AS A BASIC PLAN, ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT FOR AID FROM THE ONMYO AGENCY.
WE CAN'T ESCAPE THE BUILDING AND CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE STREETS OUTSIDE, EITHER.
TRYING TO FIGHT "D" ON OUR OWN IS USELESS.
WE ONLY HAVE SO MANY TALISMANS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE'LL JUST EXHAUST OURSELVES TRYING TO TAKE THEM ALL ON, ONE BY ONE.
LET'S DO THAT.
THE BARRIERS SHOULD BE FUNCTIONING, THOUGH NOT AS STRONG AS THE ARENA'S.
THEY SHOULD BUY US SOME TIME.
FIRST, WE HAVE TO BREAK OUT OF HERE.
IT'LL KEEP US FROM GETTING EXHAUSTED AND BUY US TIME, LITTLE BY LITTLE.
TRAINING ROOM 1
TRAINING ROOM 2
TRAINING ROOM 3
TRAINING ROOM 4
IF WE HOLE UP INSIDE THE BARRIER OF A PRACTICAL TRAINING ROOM AND CONSERVE OUR STRENGTH...
...WE CAN MOVE ON TO A DIFFERENT TRAINING ROOM IF THE BARRIER IS DESTROYED.
THEN LET'S HEAD TO TRAINING ROOM #8 FIRST. IT'S CLOSEST.
GOT IT.


HARU-TORA, KON, AND I WILL TAKE POINT.
READY? WE'LL MOVE WITHOUT BREAKING THE CIRCLE.
CREEP...
OKAY, THEN, KEEP IT GOING AS LONG AS YOU THINK IS SAFE.
GOT IT.
BUT ONLY FIVE IF I REALLY CUT LOOSE.
RIGHT NOW? TEN MIN-UTES.
HOW LONG CAN YOU MAINTAIN YOUR TRANS-FORMA-TION?
TOJI!
CREEP...

BRING IT ON.
Hmph!
DAIRENJI, CAN YOU TAKE REAR GUARD?
AND LAST OF ALL, TENMA AND DAI-RENJI.


GOT IT!
NEXT IS KURA-HASHI AND TOJI.
KURAHASHI, DEPLOY HAKUO AND KOKUFU TO FLANK THE CIRCLE.


SURE.
THE GREAT PRODIGY OF THE TWELVE DIVINE GENERALS!
YOU GUYS TALK THE TALK, BUT CAN YOU WALK THE WALK?
JUST WATCH AND LEARN FROM YOURS TRULY!

LET'S GO!
CREEP...
ALL RIGHT!

SCREEE!
CREEP...
RATTLE
TAKE THIS!
WHAM!
CRACKLE...
SWISH

CRACKLE
SCREEEE
CRACKLE
VOOOM!
...IT?!
WE DID...
CRACKLE...
CRACK
CRACK
EEEEE
CRACK
SLASH
!
ORDER!
GAH! IT'S...?!

VWOOM!
CRASH!
!!
IT'S NO GOOD! AT THIS RATE, WE'LL RUN OUT OF TALISMANS SOON!
WHOA, WHOA! THESE GUYS DON'T FEEL LIKE SMALL FRY AT ALL!
SHFF
THIS IS NO TIME TO HOLD BACK...
DAM-MIT!
YANK!
WE TOOK DOWN THE FIRST ONE SO FAST THAT IT MADE US COCKY, BUT...
...IT WAS TALKING TO US WHILE IN CONTACT WITH THE BARRIER.
IT MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN BADLY DAMAGED!

FLUTTER
FLUTTER
WHOA!
JUST LIKE BEFORE ...!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FORCE THEM BACK.

HA!
THAT WAS NOTHING.
SUZUKA, YOU'RE AMAZING!
BWUH?!
WOW SUZUKA! I MIGHT JUST FALL FOR YOU!
BAM
BAM
D-D-D-DON'T BE STUPID!
FLAIL
FLAIL
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
FLAIL
BAM
BAM
BAM
FLAIL
THOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I WOULD FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH ONE.
FLAIL
I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON A DIVINE GENERAL.
...!!
AWE-SOME!
BOOM!!

BOOM!
AWE-
SOME!

HA! THAT WAS NOTHING.
SUZUKA, YOU'RE AMAZING!
BWUH?!
WOW. SUZUKA! I MIGHT JUST FALL FOR YOU!
BAM
BAM
D-D-D-DON'T BE STUPID!
FLAIL
FLAIL
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
FLAIL
...!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
FLAIL
I KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON A DIVINE GENERAL.
THOUGH I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I WOULD FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH ONE.
FLAIL

IT MAKES ME WONDER...
I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED IT, JUST A YEAR AGO.
NOW IT'S NOT JUST TOJI, BUT KYOKO AND TENMA AND EVEN NATSUME...
...WE'RE ALL BATTLING TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
I SEE...
...WHAT I'LL BE DOING THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, AND WITH WHO?
WHOOM...
SO YOU WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN YOU SAID YOU COULD HANDLE THIS ALONE.
ARE YOU SURE THOSE POWERS OF YOURS ARE SEALED?
BLUUUUSH
O-OF COURSE THEY ARE!
I TOLD YOU, THIS IS ALL I CAN MANAGE RIGHT NOW!
PULL YOUR OWN WEIGHT, TOO!

I SEE NOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
YES ...
ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT HARDER, TOO?
WELL?
IDIOT! YOU'RE USING YOUR NORMAL VOICE!
Gahh!
Did his voice get higher?
HUH?
FORGET EXHAUSTION, FIRST WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE THAT BARRIER AS FAST AS WE CAN.
FWEEE!
GO FORTH!
HOKUTO!
I'LL MAKE US AN ESCAPE ROUTE!

BOOM!
CLUNK!
ゴッッッ
ひさしぶ…
Hmm, it's been a while

Eww, what are those?!
キモっ!?
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
What? It's so cramped!
何コレ狭っ!?
SQUIRM
CREEP
CREEP
Na waaay...
SQUIRM
SQUIRM
HOKUTO! THIS IS AN ORDER!
BLOW YOUR WAY THROUGH THOSE BLACK FAMILIARS!
GASP!

END OF CHAPTER 46

AFTERWORD

VOLUME 9 IS SAFELY OUT! THIS IS SUZUMI. NEXT UP IS VOLUME 10, ALREADY... TIME FLIES, DOESN'T IT? IT'S A LITTLE LONELY NOW THAT THE ANIME IS OVER, BUT WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO KEEP THE MANGA UP WITH THE ANIME, SO PLEASE BE PATIENT(?) AND STICK WITH US. I WANT TO KEEP DRAWING THIS UNTIL I REACH A GOOD STOPPING POINT, BUT...?

I WANT TO SAY THANKS AGAIN TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO GET THE NEXT VOLUME OUT SAFELY!

SEE YOU LATER!

6/2014 ATSUSHI SUZUMI

STAFF & HELP
INAGI KAZAMORI + K.K. + KODAMA + HANA HIRATOKI

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

TOKYO RAVENS
Volume 9

KADOKAWA MANGA

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2-13-3 Fujimi Chiyoda-ku Tokyo, 102-8177 JAPAN

Translation/Arijan Clark
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